GMA orders building of more prisons for drug war

Story on PAGE A2

Terror raps filed vs Asia's most wanted man

By Philip Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday charged Hambali, Asia's most wanted man, and seven other suspected terrorists of the Jemaah Islamiah and Moro Islamic Liberation Front with plotting and financing the Rizal Day bombing of the Light Rail Transit that killed 12 people and wounded 19 others in Manila three

TERROR/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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- **Central Mindanao cop chief sacked** ACROSS/A12
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CBCP sorry for scandals

Priest who fathers child should give financial support, says Bishop Quevedo

By Blanche Rivera

THE COUNTRY'S Catholic bishops yesterday apologized to their flock for "actual or alleged sexual misconduct of some of its shepherds," as well as for cases of fiscal mismanagement by certain priests.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) also announced that it had "approved in principle the guidelines on clergy sexual misconduct."

"Today we once again point an accusing finger at ourselves. The entire Church in the Philippines is suffering in great anguish as its integrity is raked over the coals with cases of actual or alleged sexual misconduct of some of its shepherds," the CBCP said in a pastoral letter.

"We are aware that in other areas of Church life as in parish financial management, some Church members and leaders, through loose and even dishonest stewardship, stray from the path of righteousness and integrity.

"For all these we express our sorrow and ask forgiveness from the Lord, as well as from our people."

The apology followed alleged sex scandals involving two Filipino bishops.

Bishop Crisostomo Yalung was forced to go on leave after allegedly fathering two children with a parishioner in Antipolo. Bishop Teodoro Bacani of Novaliches is under investigation by the Vatican for alleged sexual harassment. Bacani has denied the allegation but was temporarily relieved of his administrative duties last month.

In response to the crisis, the CBCP drafted pastoral guidelines at a plenary assembly during the weekend to address sexual misconduct by the clergy.

The CBCP agreed to create special

CBCP/ A4

ROAD TOUR. Businessman Eduardo Cojuangco goes to Bicol to test the political waters accompanied by former Sen. Ernesto Maceda (standing). At right is Camarines Sur Rep. William Felix Fuentebella at a meeting held at Tinambac, Camarines Sur. JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

6 Bicol governors support Cojuangco's presidential bid

By Jerry Esplanada and Christine Avendaño

ALL six Bicol governors will support Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco should the controversial businessman decide to run for president, according to a political leader in the region.

"We have forged a 'one for all, all for one' covenant" backing Cojuangco's presidential bid, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte told the INQUIRER.

"We have made up our minds. Danding is our candidate for President, not (Sen. Panfilo) "Ping" Lacson. Definitely not Roco, although he is a fellow Bicolano," said Villafuerte, a member of the opposition Lakas ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Like Villafuerte, Roco, an ex-senator and a former education secretary, hails from Camarines Sur.

Villafuerte's announcement coincided with the first of Cojuangco's 11 provincial sorties, to Tinambac, Camarines Sur.

Cojuangco said his purpose was "to get a feel of the masses of our people."

"I want to hear from them what their aspirations are and what they would want to see in the future. As a potential candidate, I want to get the feel," Cojuangco said.

According to Villafuerte, Cojuangco can count on the follow-

6 BICOL/ A13

₱4-B UCPB 'behest loans' bared

By Gil Cabacungan and Elena Torrijos

AN AUDIT report has documented over P4 billion in "behest loans" that the government-sequestered United Coconut Planters Bank extended over the last four years to companies linked to businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and his close associate Ramon Ang.

The in-house audit, commissioned by the bank's own board of directors, showed that UCPB lent P1.4 billion to Lucky Star Holdings Inc., P2 billion to Asturias Holdings and P700 million to Skyssets Inc.

The audit report, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, suggested the loans were extended because of the debtors' affiliation with Cojuangco and Ang, who are chair and president of San Miguel Corp., respectively.

The three companies were said to have no track record of profitability, insufficient collateral, and doubtful prospects for repayment.

The loans were made between 1999 and 2001, when the bank was still being managed by Cojuangco allies Jerome Kilayco and Lorenzo Tan.

UCPB officials were unavailable for comment. But Ang, in a statement, defended the transactions: "The loans that UCPB extended to Skyssets, Lucky Star and Asturias are all legitimate transactions and fully secured by collateral. The collateral includes various prime properties and shares in major corporations which collectively more than am-

P4-B UCPB/ A13

Maceda backs off, confirms offer for SMC board seat

By Christine O. Avendaño *in Manila*
and Juan Escandor Jr., *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

EX-AMBASSADOR to Washington Ernesto Maceda yesterday confirmed President Macapagal-Arroyo's offer to nominate him to the San Miguel Corp. board of directors, but said he declined the offer when he learned of PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac's objection.

In a short statement, Maceda, the chair of the Nationalist People's Coalition, said Ms Macapagal made the offer in March as a "sincere gesture of reconciliation and I earnestly thanked her."

"However, as soon as I was informed of PCGG Chairman Haydee Yorac's objection to the presidential directive I immediately sent word that I was withdrawing my acceptance of the same," Maceda said.

Yorac, on behalf of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, objected to the nomination in a strongly worded letter to the Malacañang search committee dated June 10.

In Tinambac, Camarines Sur, where he was with NPC founder and SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco on a provincial sortie, Maceda told reporters: "It was offered to me by the President ... I thought it was a genuine effort of reconciliation so I agreed." He said that with the high public positions he had occupied in the past, he did not really need a seat on the SMC board.

Yorac, who had battled two life-threatening diseases earlier this year, objected to Maceda because the former senator was closely allied with Cojuangco, the principal defendant in the coconut levy cases.

In a phone interview, Maceda added more information. He said an emissary from Malacañang had informed him about Yorac's objection.

"That's fine with me," he said. "I have no great need for the position."

He even said that a friend of his was surprised he had accepted the offer at all, telling him it "was not a choice" position. But Maceda said he only agreed to the President's offer because "I felt she was making a sincere gesture."

He would rather bow out, he emphasized, "if this causes friction to Yorac and civil society."

FIGHTING FORM. PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac rises from her sickbed to register her strong opposition to former Sen. Ernesto Maceda sitting on the board of San Miguel Corp. CERES DOYO

Malacañang said yesterday Yorac's objection had been "duly noted."

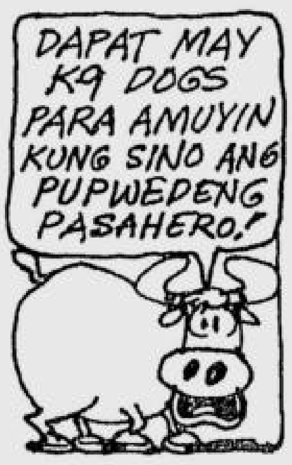
"The nomination was received by the search committee and the search committee, as a matter of procedure, routinely passed this to the PCGG. The PCGG chair responded but you know this response somehow found its way to the newspapers," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye could not say if the President would support the nomination.

"Well, the PCGG chair has expressed reservations at this time so that's the situation we are in right now and I believe the PCGG chair's opinion would and should carry a lot of weight," Bunye said.

He could not say if Maceda's NPC ties were a factor in the nomination, or who nominated Maceda in

MACEDA/ A13



DAPAT MAY K9 DOGS PARA AMUYIN KUNG SINO ANG PUPWEDENG PASAHERO.!

Code of conduct up for passengers

By Leila B. Salaverria
Metro Reporter

CHECKLIST for bus, jeepney and other public utility vehicle riders:

Have you taken a shower in the last 24 hours?

Are your clothes clean?

Is your neckline too low, your hemline too high?

Are you intoxicated, high

CODE/ A4

Roco ahead of pack if De Castro and FPJ don't run, says poll

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IF BROADCASTER Sen. Noli De Castro and action star Fernando Poe Jr. don't run for president, former Sen. Raul Roco would likely win over four other listed candidates, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, according to a Social Weather Stations survey.

The finding was culled from a portion of the survey, conducted from May 28 to June 14, that limited the field of potential presidential contenders to just five—Roco, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, administration Sen. Ramon "Jun" Magsaysay Jr., businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and Ms Macapagal herself. All of them, except Ms Macapagal, have expressed their intention to run next year.

The entire survey was commissioned by Polistrat International, a consulting firm. It was conducted through interviews with 1,200 adult respondents nationwide and had a margin of error of 3 percent.

Roco obtained 29 percent of the votes, followed by Lacson with 23 percent and Ms Macapagal, 22 percent. Magsaysay got 11 percent while Cojuangco had 6 percent.

Eight percent of the respondents refused to choose from the list, while 2 percent said they were undecided.

On June 27, the SWS released results of another portion of the survey that gave respondents a wider choice of candidates.

Based on the results, De Castro remained the front-runner, although Roco could catch up with

ROCO/ A5

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The coastal waters throughout the archipelago will be slight to moderate.
SOURCE. PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/08/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second **FRONTPAGE**

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

GMA: Build more jails for drug war

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the construction of more prisons for drug offenders, amid a high-profile anti-narcotics campaign that has snared thousands of suspects.

"Rehabilitation is a vital component of the comprehensive anti-drug campaign," the President said in a statement. "This will start with an immediate inventory and expansion of the country's jails and drug rehabilitation centers."

Last month Ms Macapagal announced the intensified drive which, she said, was inspired by the crackdown launched by Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Police officials said at least 70 percent of all crimes committed in the Philippines were drug-related, and that drug users out of the national population of 80 million now numbered up to 3.4 million.

At the start of the campaign, police reported that, in the past year, nearly 16,000 people, including a number of suspected Chinese and Japanese dealers, had been arrested for alleged drug crimes.

Four days ago, Ms Macapagal hinted that she might order the resumption of the judicial execution of death convicts to bolster the heightened anti-narcotics drive.

Yesterday, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of the Senate justice and human rights committee, appealed for the President to reconsider.

Pangilinan said the Senate was set to approve, on second reading, a bill abolishing the death penalty, when Congress resumes its sessions on July 28. He noted that the President's earlier stand was to wait for Congress to debate the matter.

It was a "complicated and controversial" issue, the solon told reporters. "(But) we hope to be able to marshal it with bipartisan support."

Pangilinan said Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who belongs to the minority and who was the principal author of the bill, had agreed to "cooperate and coordinate" with his committee.

Opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III also told reporters it was about time the country did away with the death penalty. He said it was a "barbaric hangover" from Biblical times, when the law exacted "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

Osmeña said studies have shown that poor people were the "biggest victims" of such a law, because they cannot afford defense lawyers.

Warning

But there's a vigorous dissenting voice in the Lower House.

Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, son of would-have-been drug czar Sen. Robert Barbers, issued a strongly worded statement yesterday urging the President to lift the temporary stay of execution of convicted drug lords.

"(This) is the most rational choice the government has to make to clearly send the message across that it is serious and resolute in its campaign," the young Barbers said.

He warned that if the government remained "soft on these syndicates," it would end up being "the Colombia of Asia," run by drug money.

The congressman from Surigao del Norte noted that despite the death penalty and stringent anti-drug laws, the drug menace had still grown and "corrupted several government officials through bribes."

He said this should be attributed not to limitations of existing laws but on the government's lack of decisiveness in dealing with those found guilty.

Barbers pointed to the recent discovery of a shabu laboratory inside the National Penitentiary, a maximum security prison, as "enough proof that these convicted drug lords . . . still wielded power."

Since the crackdown started, numerous salvagings have occurred all over the country, and police have blamed these on vigilante groups.

On Sunday in Silang, Cavite, another apparent summary execution was discovered. *Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo; with Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and a report from AFP*

Coming soon: Names of big-time drug lords

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Nelson F. Flores

THE GOVERNMENT will soon publish the names of big-time drug lords as part of the drive against the drug menace.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the Dangerous Drugs Board, headed by Interior Secretary Jose Lina, and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency were gathering more evidence against the drug lords before coming out with a list.

"It is just a matter of time," said Lina, before the list is released. He said the PDEA has placed some "big fish" under investigation, although he noted the term "big fish" did not necessarily mean a political figure. He said the PDEA had netted many big fish in the past but these were mostly unknown to the public.

"But in the underworld these people were big-time," Lina said.

He said among the "big fish" the government has arrested were the Chinese chemists nabbed in Lipa City and San Juan in Metro Manila. He said the Chinese, contrary to their claims, were professional chemists, who knew the trade well.

"*Arte lang nila yung wala silang alam* (Their ignorance was just an act)," Lina said.

Lina also cited the arrest and prosecution of former Panulukan, Quezon Mayor Ronnie Mitra, who was caught allegedly escorting a government ambulance carrying shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) last year.

Filipino oil workers in Nigeria freed

LAGOS—Two Filipino and one German oil workers, who were kidnapped by pirates in Nigeria's western Niger Delta region and held for two weeks, have been freed, their respective embassies said Monday.

"They are okay," Philippine Ambassador Masaranga Umpa told Agence France Presse.

"They have been released, through the intervention of the governor of Delta State James Ibori."

With embassy staff

The German embassy's spokesperson confirmed that the men were free but could give no further details. Both embassies said the hostages were now in the company of embassy staff.

An armed gang stormed a US-owned oil industry tugboat as it made its way through the swamps of the western delta last month and captured its German captain and two crewmen.

The trio were held in a village in the home area of the restless Ijaw ethnic group, which in March launched a rebellion against its perceived political marginalization.

Criminal motive

But the motive for the kidnap appears to have been purely criminal. The men's captors demanded $200,000 in ransom.

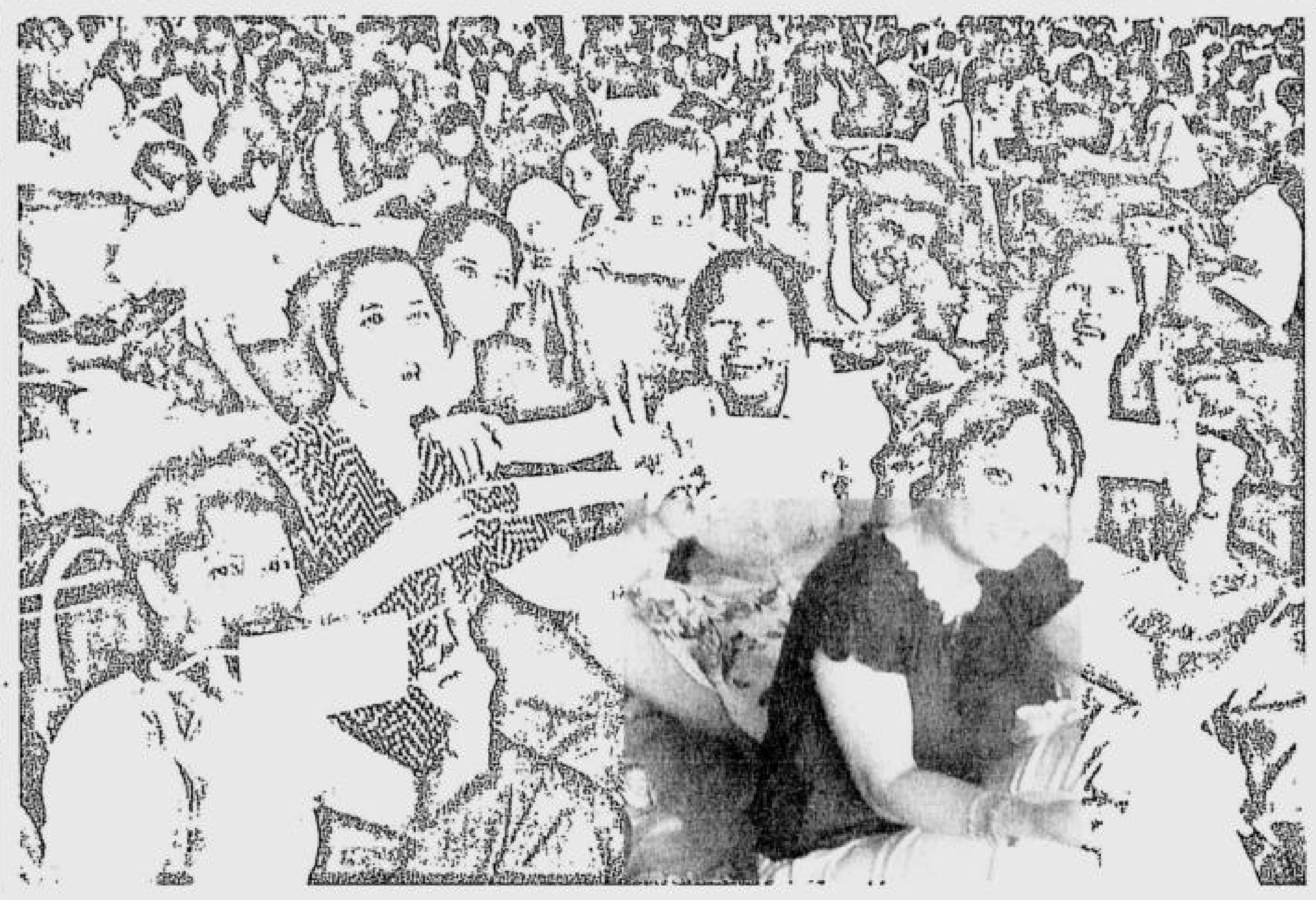
Neither embassy could say if a ransom was paid.

The men worked for the Florida-based oil services company Seabulk, which works as a sub-contractor supplying crews and vessels to the Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell in the delta.

In March, unrest among the Ijaws forced Shell and US major ChevronTexaco to shut down their operations in the western Delta, cutting more than 40 percent from Nigeria's oil output.

Production is now returning to normal, but the situation remains tense.

Even before the March uprising, the kidnapping of oil workers was fairly common. *AFP*



'SARS-FREE AT LAST, THANK GOD ALMIGHTY . . .'

DANTE PERALTA/PINOY ABROA

Filipino workers in Hong Kong show off the smiles they had been hiding behind SARS masks for months, after the World Health Organization declared the Chinese special region, one of the places hardest hit by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, free of the deadly disease, along with China, Taiwan and Singapore.

Troops bust alleged NPA pot farm

GOVERNMENT troops uprooted marijuana plants in a Danao City, Bohol, plantation which military officials alleged had been maintained with the knowledge of communist rebels operating in the area.

Elements of the Army's 79th Infantry Battalion stumbled upon the marijuana plantation while establishing blocking positions in Barangay Sibacan last Friday. They uprooted at least 100 plants.

Shortly after, troops from the 78th IB and local police took control of the plantation, according to Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala, Army spokesperson.

"We're wondering why a marijuana plantation exists in the area. It seems the NPA has tolerated this; it could have been a major source of funds," he said.

Last month, Army troops and police uprooted 1,500 fully grown marijuana plants and 300 seedlings in Barangay Danlag, Tampakan, South Cotabato, where the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels operate.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday accused the NPA of growing marijuana after its international funding dried up following its classification as a foreign terrorist organization.

An official of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, however, admitted the agency lacked solid evidence to prove the rebel group maintained marijuana farms.

Rep. Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna) yesterday accused the President of "deliberately sabotaging" the peace talks with the National Democratic Front by linking communist rebels to the illegal drug trade.

"It is easy to see the real motive behind the President's accusation," said Ocampo, who served as an NDF peace negotiator in ill-fated peace talks in 1987. *With Carlito Pabloand Christine O. Avendaño*

Erap lawyer files motion in Filipino

By Armand N. Nocum

"*NAKAPIRING, ngunit hindi bulag, na simbulo ng katarungan* (The symbol of justice is blindfolded, but not blind)."

This was one of the poetic lines used by Alan Paguia, lawyer of ousted President Joseph Estrada, who made good his threat to file a motion for reconsideration before the Sandiganbayan in Filipino.

An official of the Office of the Special Prosecutor, who asked not to be named, dismissed the motion as "rich in familiar phrases but poor in arguments."

Paguia had drafted the motion in the national language, a rare move, in a bid to bring the legal issue down to the level of Estrada's supporters, he said.

In his "Mosyong Pangrekonsiderasyon," Paguia asked the Special Division of the Sandiganbayan hearing the plunder case against Estrada to reverse its July 2, 2003 joint resolution. The resolution rejected Paguia's plea for the anti-graft court to dismiss the plunder case, for lack of jurisdiction.

The plea had been based on the contention that Estrada was still the lawful President and, therefore, could not be sued.

In his original motion, Paguia had challenged an earlier Supreme Court decision on the validity of the Macapagal administration. He said the high court lost its authority to decide on the issue when some of its justices attended the proclamation of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Jan. 2001.

The act constituted a "prejudgment," a question that was not touched by the anti-graft court in its July 2 ruling, Paguia pointed out.

"*Nakakabingi ang katahimikan ng nasabing* joint resolution *sa kaisa-isang depensa ni* Pangulong Estrada (The silence of the joint resolution on Estrada's main defense is deafening)," he said.

The lawyer asked the Sandiganbayan to "open their eyes."

The prejudgment issue, he insisted in his motion, should first be settled:

"Oo o hinde? (Yes or no)"

'More guns spell safer streets'

By Christian V. Esguerra

HAVE THE country's streets become more dangerous after Filipinos were barred from carrying guns outside of their homes?

The group Peaceful Responsible Owners of Guns (Pro-Gun) thinks so, claiming a whopping 50-percent increase in the crime rate since Malacañang suspended the issuance of permits to carry firearms outside of residences (PTCFOR) last January.

"You still have kidnappings, you still have criminality, you have mayors getting killed, sports officials getting ambushed," Pro-Run chair Mike Melchor told reporters yesterday.

"There are more important things like drugs which the government should be focusing on instead of making life miserable for law-abiding citizens," he said.

Melchor's figures, however, contradicted the official Philippine National Police report that said street crimes went down by 20 percent since Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. assumed office last year.

Asked where he got his 50-percent figure, Melchor said the increase was based on an "open source."

Statistics released yesterday by the PNP's Firearms and Explosives Division seemed to support Pro-Gun's demand for President Macapagal-Arroyo to lift the moratorium.

Monthly collections of gun licensing fees was down from around P67 million during the first quarter of 2002 to P58 million in the same period this year, according to official FED documents.

Collections further dropped in April and May with FED earning only P26 million this year compared to P46 million during the same period last year, according to Senior Supt. Geary Barias, FED chief.

Barias said the gun permit ban has also proved costly to the gun manufacturing industry.

Gun sales dropped by 25 percent in April and May this year compared to the same period in 2002, the official told reporters.

Though the odds may seem to favor the lifting of the gun ban soon, Barias advised Pro-Gun to seek an audience with the President.

"The FED is only for licensing. It's only a regulatory body," he said.

Ms Macapagal suspended the issuance of PTCFORs in response to the public outcry triggered by the killing of Ateneo law graduate Jose Ramon Llamas.

The outcry was fanned further by the fact that the alleged gunman, Basher Abdulrahman, had used a licensed firearm to kill the victim.

This revelation disproved Melchor's claim yesterday that none of the country's estimated 800,000 citizens with gun permits had ever shot anyone dead.

In wake of ambushes, Lina tells mayors to tighten security

By Nelson F. Flores and Christian V. Esguerra

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina yesterday called on all local executives to tighten their personal security in view of the spate of attacks against local officials.

Lina made the call a day after a motorcycle-riding gunman tried to kill Sta. Rosa, Laguna Mayor Leon Arcillas.

Arcillas had just attended the induction of a local homeowners association in Barangay Tagapo, Sta. Rosa and was on his way home when he was shot by a motorcycle-riding gunman once in the thigh. The gunman escaped.

Arcillas was the fourth mayor to be ambushed within weeks. Last month, Tayug, Pangasinan Mayor Guerrero Zaragosa was killed in a cockpit by a still unidentified gunman.

Mayor Moises Araham of Payao, Zamboanga, and Mayor Joel Brillantes of Monkayo, Compostela Valley, were also killed in separate ambushes by unidentified armed men.

With four of their colleagues ambushed in recent weeks, the 1,495-strong League of Municipalities of the Philippines yesterday asked the Philippine National Police to allow mayors and their bodyguards to carry guns outside their homes.

League president Ramon Guico Jr., mayor of Binalonan, Pangasinan, also asked the PNP to provide local executives with more policemen-bodyguards.

"We can't just allow ourselves to fall one by one," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "We have to have more protection these days."

Mayors pressed the panic button after the ambush of Arcillas Sunday night.

Though Arcillas survived the attempt, Guico said the incident showed how easy it was to attack local executives.

Arcillas was with his driver, secretary and a civilian security escort.

None of the witnesses saw the face of the gunman because he was wearing a helmet, Senior Supt. Edwin Corvera, Laguna provincial director, said.

NPA rebel nabbed after 24 hours underwater

By TJ Burgonio

A COMMUNIST rebel was captured on Sunday morning after government troops found him hiding underwater 24 hours following a clash between members of the New People's Army and soldiers in a large fishpond area in Sasmuan, Pampanga.

Maj. Gen. Alberto Braganza, Army 7th Infantry Division commander, announced the capture yesterday, even as he stuck to his earlier claim that the government side had killed 15 NPA guerrillas in the clash.

Soldiers found Analito Estrada, alias "Ka Debon," a suspected political officer of the NPA, underwater while scouring the fishpond area in Barangay Batang Segundo at around 8:45 a.m., Braganza said.

"He was in the water for more than a day, breathing through a bamboo tube," Braganza said in a phone interview, adding that troops seized an M-16 rifle from Estrada.

The capture came a day after a nine-hour clash between soldiers of the 7th ID and a group of NPA rebels in Barangay Batang Segundo, in Sasmuan, which left at least 15 of the rebels dead. Only two bodies, however, were recovered.

Braganza maintained 15 rebels had been killed in the clash, after NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal had reacted by saying the military had concocted the figures.

While they recovered only two bodies, the troops counted 15 casualties on the NPA side, Braganza insisted.

"Every time they're hurting, they always react. If they hope to attend to their fighters, I'm inviting them to Central Luzon to look into their sorry state. They're in disarray, disorganized and on the run," said Braganza of the NPA. "I'll continue to hit them hard," he added.

Sagging morale

Rosal had scoffed at Braganza's claim of 15 rebels dead, saying the official lied about the death toll "to boost the sagging morale of his men."

The NPA killed a total of 29 soldiers in a raid on an Army patrol base in Oras, Eastern Samar on June 26, and in a clash with troops in New Bataan, Compostela Valley on June 30.

Braganza said the rebels frequented the fishpond area in Sasmuan to extort money from local fishermen to finance their operations.

"We also learned they were there to neutralize a rival faction, the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, which is also engaged in extortion in the area," he said, referring to a rebel faction that broke away from the NPA.

20 more killed?

In a recurring scenario, Rosal yesterday belied police reports of 20 NPA rebels killed in an alleged encounter in Botolan town, Zambales, on Sunday.

Rosal said, "In fact, not a single NPA fighter was killed." He said the information was relayed to him by the NPA-Josefino Corpus Command in Central Luzon.

"One can no longer believe AFP and PNP reports, especially after their recent successive incredulous and totally fabricated reports on supposed NPA casualties," Rosal said.

Police officials in Zambales reported yesterday that 20 NPA fighters were killed in an encounter in Botolan.

'Extra mile'

.This a day after Braganza had reported the 15 NPA fatalities in Sasmuan.

Rosal urged media to take the "extra mile" in verifying such reports, "especially if they come from AFP and PNP press releases."

He warned that "in an effort to prove their false claims, the AFP might direct their fire against civilians and present them as members of the NPA."

He also urged the media, Church and human rights groups to investigate "reports" that civilians in Sasmuan and Botolan towns were being harassed by the AFP to suppress the truth about the encounters that took place over the weekend. *With Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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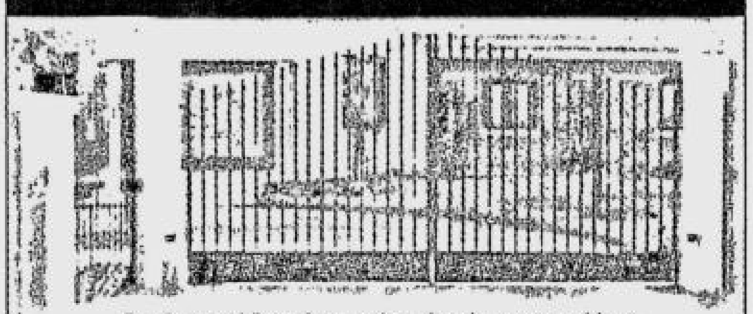

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CBCP sorry for scandals

From page A1

boards composed of a bishop, a psychologist, and civil and canon lawyers in each of the country's 86 dioceses to handle complaints against both diocesan and religious priests.

"Only a few crucial issues remain as matters for further consultation, especially with experts," a CBCP statement said.

Church leaders want to ensure that the document is "in accord with legal procedures, both civil and canonical."

Balancing act

Crucial to the bishops' debate was how to balance the kind of sexual misconduct with the sanction to be imposed, as well as misconduct of a serial versus a one-time nature.

Some of the religious leaders proposed a "one strike and you're out policy," which would see a priest defrocked irrespective of the type of incident.

Others suggested that the Church follow the example of civil law, which "imposes punishment commensurate with the act committed."

"Some say one strike and you're out. Another side says it is not fair because even in civil law there is proportionality of crime to punishment... Even bishops will say it might be 'very, very drastic' and might even go against the human rights of the offender," said Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, CBCP president.

Lipa Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said the Church was "100 percent behind the victims" and would address all their needs. The CBCP also tasked training facilitators and counselors to help victims or consenting partners.

"We're very, very careful not to leave further injury on the victims. We don't want the cure to be worse than the offense or the injury," said Rosales.

Financial support

Quevedo said a priest who fathers a child should provide financial support for the mother and child and should not pass on the responsibility to his diocese or parish.

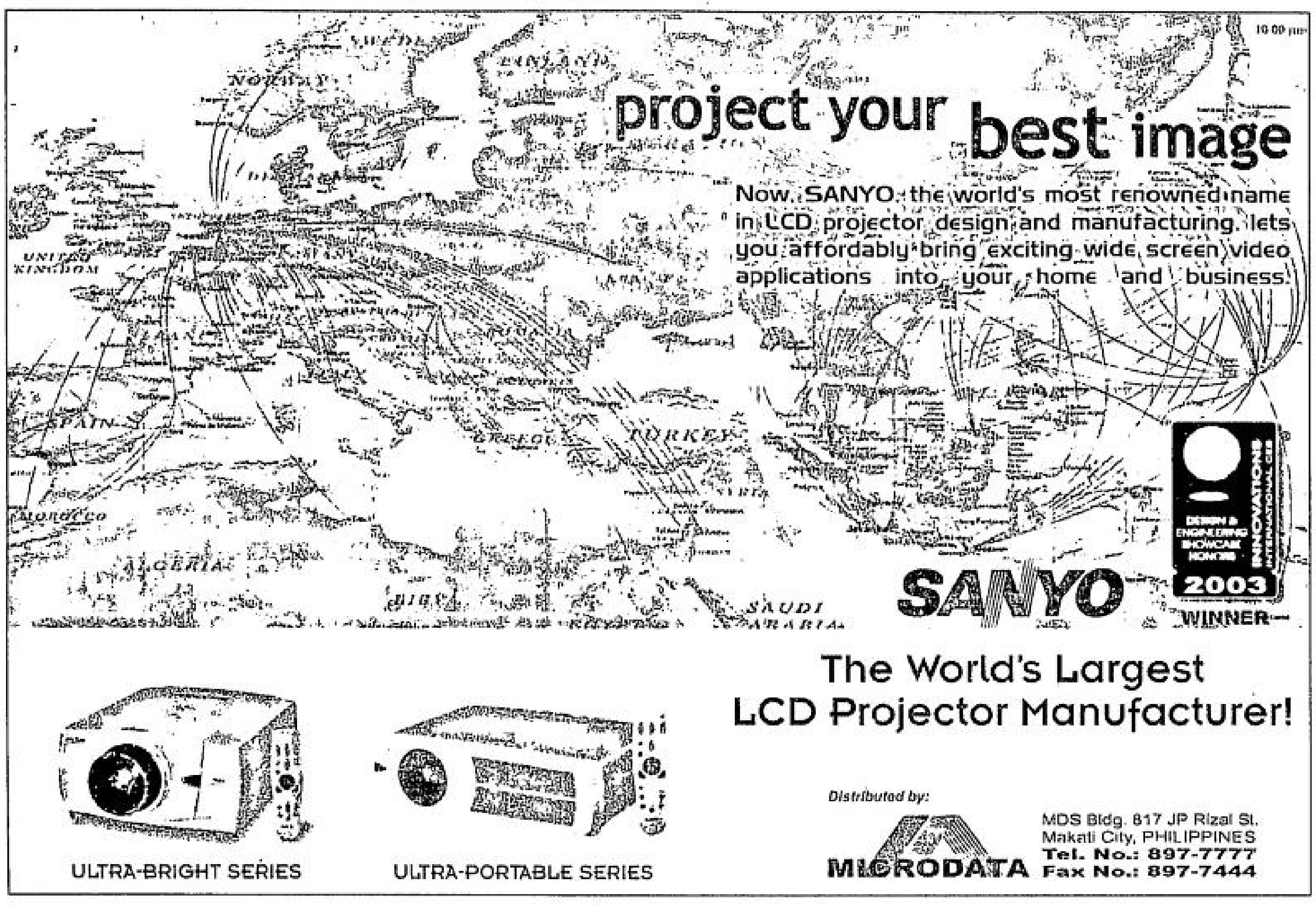
Erring clergy who are not financially capable of supporting "whatever comes out of his crime" should seek support from his family, Quevedo said.

Bishops are also reviewing the seminary program "to ensure, as far as is humanly possible, that our future priests, religious and bishops shall be persons of true integrity after the manner of Christ."

Once approved by the CBCP, the pastoral guidelines will be submitted to Rome for comments and suggestions.

The Catholic Church in the Philippines last year publicly apologized for sexual abuses committed by Filipino priests, but insisted that a majority of clergymen remained faithful to their vows.

The Church also admitted that some 200 priests had been investigated for sexual misconduct over the past 20 years. Some were dismissed, while most resigned voluntarily. *With a report from AFP*



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Code of conduct . . .

From page A1

on drugs, suicidal, anti-social?

Are you still wearing last night's makeup and hair spray?

That bulge under your belt—yipes, is it a gun, a knife, a miniature weapon of mass destruction?

After cracking the whip on untidy bus conductors and drivers, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday said passengers of public utility vehicles should also follow a code of conduct in their dress and deportment.

Otherwise, drivers have every right to refuse them a ride, or throw them out.

During his weekly news forum, Fernando said: "Drivers are the captains of their ships, and the passengers are their responsibility. Whoever does not abide by the rules (of decency), they could ask to step down."

For example, he said, a "taong-grasa," or street person, should be refused entry outright.

"What if he rubs against the other passengers who are clean?" Fernando said, not joking at all.

As a rule, he added, drivers should also reject drunks, men or women and everything in between who are obscenely dressed, and people openly carrying dangerous weapons.

The MMDA chief said it would be up to the driver to decide whom he wants to keep out of his vehicle. However, he said, the driver should be "reasonable."

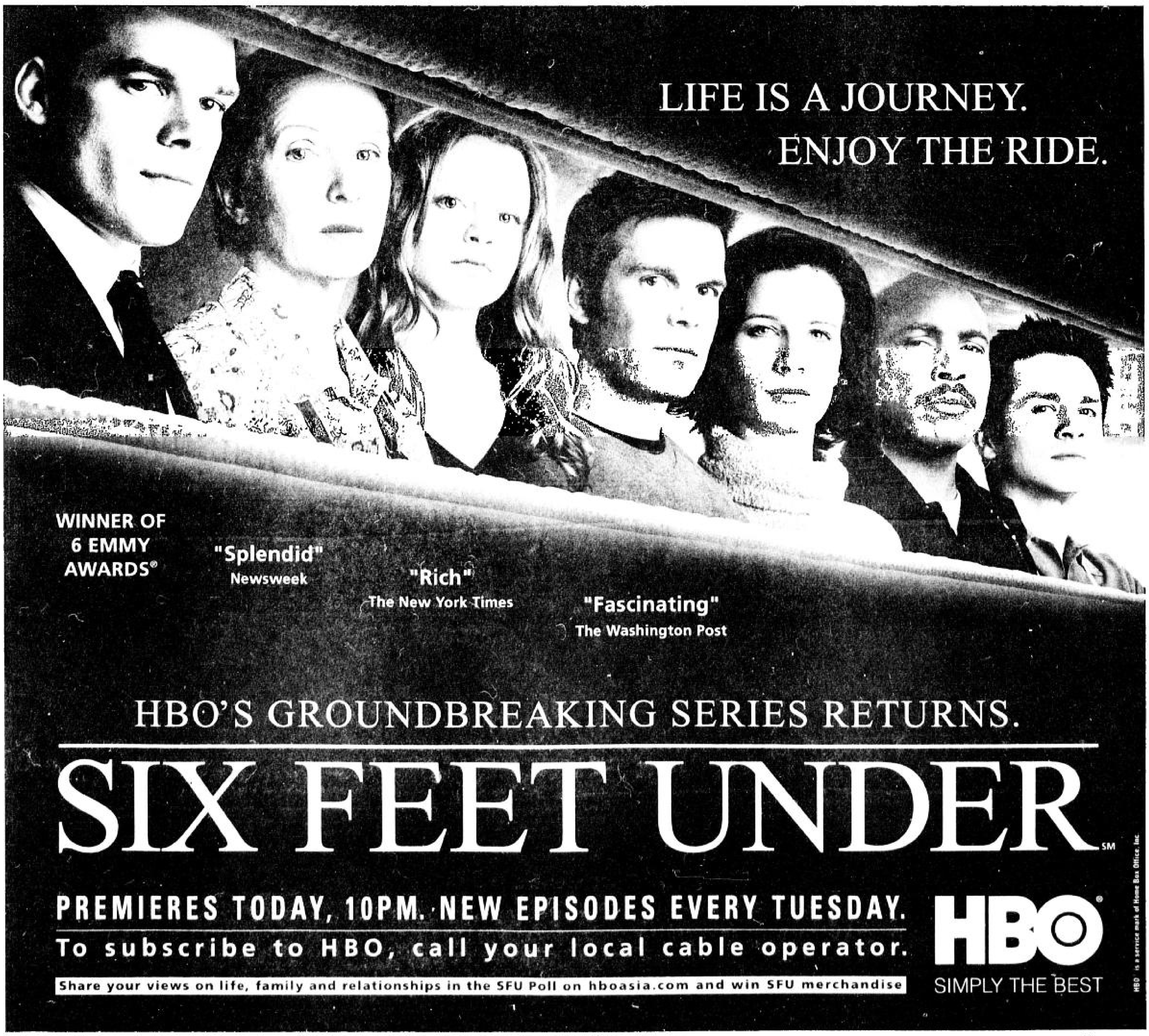
Cabbies should be the next target of the MMDA chief's random checks.

On Saturday, Fernando asked the conductors and drivers of six buses on Edsa-Ortigas to step down after he saw that they were wearing either slippers or sandals. One was sporting a grease-stained shirt.

The offenders were lectured about existing rules for all workers on public utilities, specifying that they should be properly dressed on the job, preferably in uniform.

It is important to enforce seemingly minor rules, Fernando said. "The reason major rules are broken or ignored is that even the minor ones are not being followed," he explained.

Before you blow your top next time a tricycle or pedicab driver ignores your frantic call during a downpour, refer to the checklist above.



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Roco ahead of pack if De Castro and FPJ …

From page A1

him if Ms Macapagal did not run.

De Castro obtained 22 percent; Roco, 19 percent; Poe, 16 percent; and Ms Macapagal, 15 percent. Lacson got 12 percent; Magsaysay, 4 percent; Sen. Loren Legarda, 3 percent; Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., 2 percent; and Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., one percent.

A source, who gave the INQUIRER the erstwhile undisclosed finding of the survey, yesterday pointed out that the SWS had embargoed it until July 31.

But the source, who asked not to be identified, said the SWS might not release this part of the survey anymore.

"If Noli (De Castro) and FPJ (Poe) do not run, this is the result," said the source.

Roco, Lacson and Magsaysay have already expressed their intent to run for president. Cojuangco, who lost in the 1992 presidential race, has not openly said so since this would mean resigning as chair of San Miguel Corp., but his supporters have said he will run.

Ms Macapagal insisted she will not reconsider her declaration in December last year that she will not run. De Castro has not said that he is even entertaining the idea of running, while Poe has remained tight-lipped despite public entreaties by his close friend, ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Top second choice

The survey showed that in a field of five, Roco was also the top second choice for president for 23 percent of the respondents.

Magsaysay was the second top choice with 16 percent; Lacson, 14 percent; Cojuangco, 14 percent; and Ms Macapagal, 12 percent.

Eleven percent said they had no second choice if their first choice did not run.

According to the survey, if Roco did not run, most of his votes would go to Magsaysay instead of the three other candidates.

Twenty-three percent of those who picked Roco as their first choice said they would vote for Magsaysay if Roco would not run; 22 percent would vote for Lacson; 21 percent would vote for Ms Macapagal; and 17 percent would vote for Cojuangco.

Thirty-seven percent of those who picked Lacson as their first choice said they would vote for Roco if he did not run; 26 percent for Cojuangco; 14 percent for Magsaysay; and 9 percent for Ms Macapagal.

Forty-percent of those who said they would vote for Ms Macapagal said that if she did not run, they would vote for Roco; 23 percent for Magsaysay, 18 percent for Lacson; and 7 percent for Cojuangco.

Thirty-seven percent of those who picked Magsaysay as their first choice would vote for Roco if he did not run; 23 percent for Ms Macapagal; 21 percent for Lacson; and 17 percent for Cojuangco.

Twenty-nine percent of those who picked Cojuangco said that if he did not run, they would vote for Roco; 24 percent for Lacson; 22 percent for Ms Macapagal; and 20 percent for Magsaysay.

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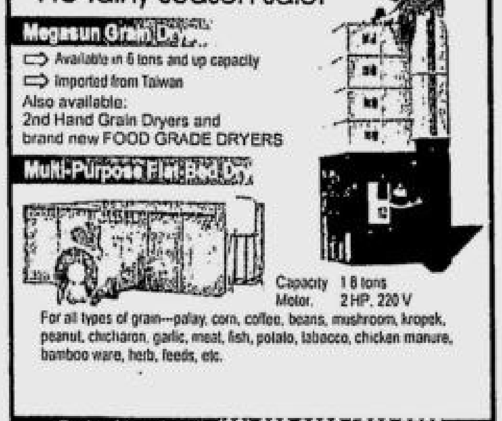

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Crisis in education

Editorial

IF THE GOVERNMENT wants to avert a bigger school crisis next year, it has to begin working on a solution to the problem now, one month after the opening of schoolyear 2003-2004.

This schoolyear a record 800,000 new students enrolled in the public schools, aggravating the shortage of teachers, books, schoolbuildings, classrooms, desks and chairs. Given a population growth rate of 2.36 percent and the growing "migration" from private schools to public schools, the public school system faces a bigger problem next year.

The cause of "migration" to the public schools is mainly financial. About 10-15 years ago, only poor families sent their children to the public schools. Now, many middle-income families that cannot afford the high tuition in private schools are transferring their children to the public schools which offer free tuition and books.

The "migration" phenomenon started about 10 years ago after the government offered free high school education. This year, the migration caused an acute shortage of schoolbuildings and classrooms. Some classes are now being conducted in the open or under the trees.

The Department of Education said it has to build at least 21,000 classrooms and hire 10,000 teachers for the new students. Because of the lack of classrooms and teachers, many schools now have two shifts, the first from 6:20 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. and the second from 1 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. Many classes now have 75 students. Some classes have 80, 90, even 100 students. We can only wonder what kind of learning is possible under these circumstances.

The best attainable student-to-book ratio is 2 to 1, when the ideal should be 1:1. In many schools, the ratio is closer to 3:1 or even 4:1. And as Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus recently related, sometimes a class would have three or four different titles, so a teacher can't tell the class, for instance, "Open your books to Page 20," because there would be four different Page 20s.

In the current budget, DepEd has the biggest outlay of P95.4 billion. But it seems that this is not enough. House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla last March observed that while education got only a one-percent increase over last year's outlay, funding for tourism was raised by 16 percent. Some sense of proportion and priority!

For a country that once boasted one of the highest literacy rates in Asia, the Philippines is now spending a pitifully small amount on education compared with its neighbors. With about 16 million enrolled in public elementary and high schools, the government spends only one-eighth of what Thailand allots for basic education. The Philippines' outlay is only about one-eleventh of that of Singapore.

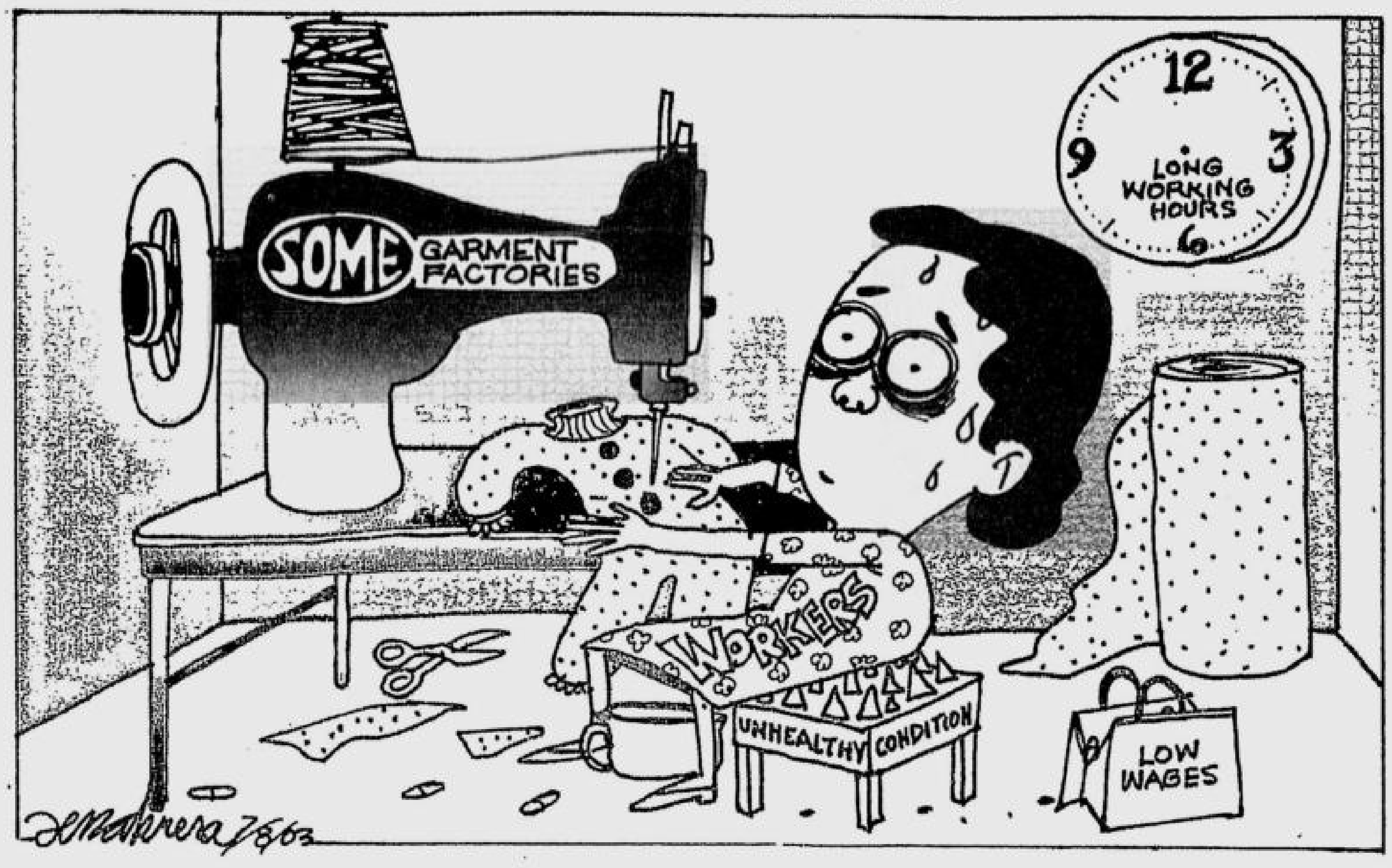
Poverty accounts for an alarming dropout rate from the schools. Out of every 100 schoolchildren enrolled every year, 66 will complete elementary education, 42 will finish high school and only 14 will earn a college degree, says the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies.

The quality of the teaching staff is deteriorating. Yvonne Chua, who has written articles on education, said low salaries and poor working conditions have meant that "for decades, education attracted the lower third of graduating students or the 'dregs,' as former Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez sometimes calls them." Some teachers cannot even speak or write straight English. These teachers then pass on their illiteracy and ignorance to their students. A program has to be undertaken to further educate the educators.

Funding, of course, is one big problem. The government can allocate only so much for education every year. Other sources of funding will have to be found. Some assistance comes from civic and non-government organizations and chambers of commerce that are financing the construction of schoolbuildings but these funds are only a drop in the proverbial bucket.

Senate President Franklin Drilon has suggested that all legislators put all of their pork barrel into the construction of schoolbuildings. This proposal should get the endorsement of all right-thinking legislators; classrooms should always get preference over basketball courts and waiting sheds.

As early as now, the government has to find ways to avert a major school crisis next year. The budget for education has to be increased and more funds allocated for classrooms, equipment and books and for the training of teachers. One cause of the underdevelopment of the Philippines is the low priority it is giving to education. It's time we invested more in our children's education; it's an investment that will bring more than a thousandfold in return.



PCG, Marina sabotaging GMA?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE CONTROVERSY at the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) is only one example of Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza's lackadaisical supervision of the agencies under his department. The problem at the Land Transportation Office (LTO), which took no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo to expose and resolve, and the inability of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Body (LTFRB) to stop the operations of *colorum* buses and jeepneys are two others. The latest bomb that may explode on the face of Mendoza is the ping-pong game now going on between the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) over a Ro-Ro (Roll on-Roll off) vessel, the Golden Swan.

The Ro-Ro vessels are the linchpin of President Macapagal-Arroyo's vaunted "nautical highway" from Aparri in Luzon to Zamboanga in Mindanao. This nautical highway links all the major islands of the Philippine archipelago. Passengers or cargos that get on a bus in Aparri need not get off that bus until they reach their destination as far south as Zamboanga.

Before the nautical highway and the Ro-Ros, passengers and cargos were unloaded from buses and trucks and loaded on board sea vessels at sea crossings. With the Ro-Ros, the land transports with all their passengers and cargos merely roll into the hold of the sea vessel and then roll off the vessel to dry land on the other side after the sea voyage. Much time and expense are saved in loading and unloading cargo from land to sea transport and back again at sea crossings. The land vehicles merely drive into the sea vessel and drive out at the other side as though the vessel is a highway. Hence the name Roll on-Roll off, or Ro-Ro, and "nautical highway."

The first Ro-Ros were former LCTs (Landing Craft Transport) used to transfer men and materiel from ship to shore during World War II. They have proven to be very handy for civilian and commercial use in peacetime in archipelagos like the Philippines.

The MV Golden Swan that is now the ball in the ping-pong game between Marina and the PCG, is a Ro-Ro, the very same vessel that the President is encouraging. It is owned by Peschem Industrial Corp., a chemical company, and its Japanese partner Nichimen Corp.

It was authorized by Marina to remain an LCT and allowed to operate as carrier of bulk cargo on Jan. 17. 2002. When Peschem applied for a renewal of the certificate of inspection without which it will not be allowed to operate, the runaround began. Marina Administrator Oscar Sevilla issued a cease and desist order. It was lifted by the Marina Board. Peschem applied for a renewal of the CI (certificate of inspection) with the Philippine Coast Guard. The PCG required the ship to undergo drydock operation which it did at Keppel Batangas. After completion of the drydock work and with the favorable inspection report by PCG Batangas, Peschem again applied for the renewal of its CI, but the PCG refused and still refuses to issue the CI despite the repeated orders of the Marina Board. The PCG insists that Marina should issue it. But Sevilla refuses to do so, despite being mandated by EO 125/EO 125A to undertake such function.

Under existing law, Marina is the safety regulatory agency. Under MC 139, Marina deputized the PCG to issue, among other vessel documents, the CI. The PCG has been issuing CIs since 1998 but it now refuses to issue any to Golden Swan.

The ping-pong game between Marina and the PCG over the renewal of the CI of Golden Swan has caused undue delay and losses to Peschem which has complied with all their requirements.

Why are they doing this? The owner suspects competition. No, the Golden Swan is not going to compete with other Ro-Ro vessels because it is going to carry only the company's own cargo of ammonia from its factory in Leyte to Manila.

Peschem used to transport its ammonia in containers in commercial vessels, which was slow and expensive. Which is why it decided to buy its own vessel to transport ammonia in bulk. End-users (ammonia is used for refrigeration) would benefit because then they could buy it cheaper.

But there is a monopoly supplier of imported ammonia here. Peschem will buy its ammonia from a local fertilizer plant, so their product would be cheaper. Nobody is saying so, but could it be that this monopoly does not want the competition, although it would be minuscule compared to its share of the market? Is it possible that Marina and the PCG are employing dilatory tactics at the instance of this monopoly? To repeat, nobody is saying so, just asking questions.

But the Marina and the PCG are making a mockery of the President' nautical highway and sabotaging her pleas for Japanese investors to invest in the Philippines. The Japanese investor has already complained to RP Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon Jr. twice. The President has already sent her Special Assistance Atty. Erlinda M.B. de Leon to attend to the problem. The solicitor general has issued a legal opinion favorable to Golden Swan. A technical committee created by the Marina Board gave a favorable report, and the Marina Board itself has ordered the renewal of the CI. But the ping-pong game between Marina Administrator Sevilla and the PCG continues.

It is time for Secretary Mendoza to do something.

Give unto Sin

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T know how well Mike Arroyo takes his cue from people. He seems so desperate to get his wife to run for president—or to find a justification for it since cajoling seems unnecessary—he is wiling to interpret anything as an endorsement of her candidacy. Last Friday, he reported Jaime Cardinal Sin as saying, "Please tell Gloria I insist that she run." This was apparently heard by five other people.

The information office of the Archdiocese of Manila has corrected the report but only in its significance, not in its content. Sin's comments, it said, were light-hearted and were by no means meant as an endorsement. It did not go so far as to say those comments were a joke. Who knows? Sin has been known to make jokes with a serious purpose and express serious purpose with jest in mind. He could give Cardinal Richelieu a run for his money.

If so, he would be breaking tradition.

Thus far, neither the American Embassy nor the Catholic Church, two of the most powerful institutions in this country, has openly endorsed a presidential candidate. They have opposed a particular candidate, and often made their opposition known in the most vocal terms. But they have not endorsed or campaigned for a candidate.

There are notable exceptions, of course. The Americans did openly campaign for Ramon Magsaysay in the 1950s. Edward Lansdale, the CIA operative who was assigned to this country, then ran Magsaysay's campaign. He built him up to begin with, pushing for him to land in Reader's Digest and other American publications, which created the fearless guerrilla from Zambales beloved by his people. In fact, if some books are to be believed, Lansdale ran Magsaysay's life, often telling him what to do even after he became president. Something Magsaysay apparently resented and eventually rebelled against.

The Americans, along with the Church, did make sure Claro M. Recto never became president. I remember that when I was in grade school in the 1950s, Recto was spoken of like the devil himself in the Catholic school I went to, a living scourge of God and the Americans, who were not always distinguishable.

The general principle was just to make sure no anti-American ever won as president, a parameter that worked only against few presidential aspirants. When I was writing the book on Marcos, a friend of mine sent me some declassified information on CIA policy on the Garcia-Macapagal and Macapagal-Marcos elections, and there was no sign anywhere the Americans favored one or the other.

I believe Francis Ricciardone completely when he says reports of George W. Bush endorsing GMA are grossly exaggerated. Of course, he says, Bush appreciates GMA's enthusiasm for his agenda, but Philippine elections are best left to Filipinos. If Crispin Beltran had any chance of winning the presidential elections, the US Embassy might probably bestir itself to make sure he doesn't. But it couldn't care less if Erap ran and won the elections if Erap were to assure American troops would remain in this country, with more to follow. American foreign policy pursues American interests, not Philippine ones. Certainly, not GMA's.

The same is true of the Catholic Church. Unlike the Iglesia ni Cristo, the Catholic Church has not openly endorsed any presidential candidate, contenting itself with setting the parameters or guidelines or prescribed virtues for those seeking the highest office of the land. There are some notable exceptions as well.

Cardinal Sin did support Cory Aquino during the "snap elections." As indeed in her entire campaign against Marcos. But that was another matter entirely. The issue went well beyond elections to the heart of oppression itself. It was a moral as much as a political issue, a spiritual as much as an electoral one. Sin's support for Cory wasn't just a support for a candidate seeking to win in an election, it was a campaign for a leader promising to free her people.

More traditionally, Sin campaigned against a president rather than for one in the last elections. That was of course against Erap, a fact that was not lost on the public notwithstanding that his diatribes were not addressed against a particular individual but at a generic type. Only one person fitted the bill. The reasons Sin advanced for it were moral as well, but this time in the more pietistic sense. It wasn't moral in the sense that the struggle against Marcos was so, in the sense of right and wrong. It was moral in the more personal sense, in the sense that Erap flouted all the things Sin stood for—indeed all the things he was named for, which were the seven cardinal sins. Chief of the sins Erap indulged in were gluttony, drunkenness, greed and lust.

Sin obviously thought a man so sinful, or indeed so lacking in virtue, would not make a good president. As it turned out, Erap did get booted out because of a cardinal sin. It wasn't lust, his favorite vice. It was greed.

Can Sin be seriously batting for GMA? Well, GMA was the product of Edsa, and Sin has a franchise on Edsa. But if so, then the least of our problems with the Catholic Church now is that its clergy cannot live up to its vow of chastity. The most is that its clergy cannot live up to its vow of humility. Or more accurately, to its vow to give unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God's what is God's. Can it be that Sin has gotten envious of Eraño Manalo and would like to be able to muster a Catholic vote in elections too? Can it be that he has gotten envious of Mike Velarde and would like to be able, if not to wear plaid coats, to anoint presidents with coy words like "*Tiyak 'yon?*"

Can it be that the new motto of the Archdiocese of Manila is, "Gloria be to Sin?"

Some rapacious creatures don't stage coups

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I READ through the 100-page Senate Committee Report No. 237, formerly CR No. 66, which was the result of nine months of investigation conducted by three Senate committees of charges raised against Sen. Panfilo Lacson in his earlier capacity as chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force and the Philippine National Police. I noted that the gripping report doesn't mince words, couching its recommendations in strong, unequivocal language. It now behooves the Senate to have that report sponsored in plenary by lead committee chair Robert Barbers (enough of technicalities to delay it) so that a full and open debate can be conducted in the Senate. Since Lacson is a declared candidate for the highest office of the land, it behooves the media to give the findings and recommendations of CR 237 serious treatment in the interest of public information. I think Lacson would also be interested to clear his name and defend his reputation.

* * *

Report No. 237 recommends to the Justice Department and/or the Office of the Ombudsman "further investigation and/or…filing of appropriate charges" against Lacson, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, the late Supt. John Campos, Supt. Francisco Villaroman and other former Lacson men in connection with a number of crimes. The report wants Lacson investigated for "possible determination as to his possible role" as co-conspirator with Acop, Campos, Villaroman and others in the kidnapping for ransom of a number of Chinese nationals and drug trafficking.

* * *

It also recommends an investigation of violations by Lacson of several laws and the PNP Code of Professional Conduct and other PNP rules and regulations when he failed "to take appropriate action to discipline his men for irregularities and/or illegal acts that appear to have been widespread within his jurisdiction…" It also castigates him for causing a police subordinate to investigate a case where the latter was himself a suspect, and worse, for inducing this officer to investigate himself, giving him access to sensitive files. The report refers to Villaroman, whom Lacson asked to investigate the abduction of a Chinese national, where he himself was accused of being one of the abductors.

* * *

In the light of the administration's current drive against drug trafficking, CR No. 237's recommendations regarding the disposal of seized illegal drugs are also very significant. It calls for legislation dismissing any law enforcer who fails to turn over seized drugs to the appropriate crime laboratory within 24 hours and exhorts the Supreme Court to adopt rules of procedure governing the presentation of drugs as evidence and their destruction in accordance with existing laws.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo flew by helicopter to Dagupan City last Sunday morning to attend the funeral Mass for Speaker De Venecia's elder brother Gil. In his response, JDV thanked her for taking time out to condole with his family in Dagupan, considering that she had just returned from Mindanao, and it was her rest day. GMA's presence was viewed as a continuing affirmation of her support for her former running mate.

Earlier reports said GMA met "very briefly" with Nationalist People's Coalition chair Eduardo Cojuangco at Villamor Airbase in an effort to cement support for De Venecia with Cojuangco's group, amid talk of a brewing coup in the House stemming from disgruntlement over the budget department's failure to release pork barrel funds. Some media dubbed it as the "rescue" of JDV. The Speaker's camp, however, exuded confidence over his control of the 219-member House, doubtless buoyed by the quick rally of his colleagues. Even as it thanked GMA for her support, it also stressed that JDV does not need "rescuing."

* * *

During lunch in his residence after the funeral, JDV was asked about the coup. He said he had challenged his so-called disgruntled colleagues if they could come up with the 110 votes needed to oust him. He didn't seem to be worried about it, and in fact later he took a small group that included La Union Gov. Victor Ortega and his wife, San Fernando Mayor Mary Jane Crisanto-Ortega, around to see his fish hatchery, where he breeds red and black tilapia, fresh-water shrimps (*ulang*), Japanese carp, Australia perch and *hito* in cement chambers, including what was once his swimming pool. JDV recalled that fish culture was what financed his education since the salary of his late father, Judge Jose de Venecia Sr., was too small for eight children during an era when judges were honest.

The Speaker let his guests feed the fish, and watching fish of all sizes jostle with one another, Governor Ortega noted how hungry they seemed. Someone quipped that while the fish looked as rapacious as the members of the House, the fish didn't stage a coup when hungry.

* * *

JDV's plan is to distribute the fingerlings in various barangays around the country, which he is encouraging to breed fish for their food security and self-sufficiency. Each of JDV's hatcheries costs about P500,000, including the water system. He recalled that after he toured President Macapagal-Arroyo's party around his fish project, together with Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo, National Director Malcolm Sarmiento of the Bureau of Fisheries and BFAR Research Center chief Wesley Rosario last January 2, GMA was so impressed that she ordered 16 such hatcheries to be built all over the country, and they were all finished last month. If every barangay could indeed sustain such a project, it would benefit the people tremendously.

The unspeakable

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT is the unthinkable and unspeakable. When two friends each lost a child over the past week, I was for once at a loss for words. What words of comfort can you offer someone to whom words would be meaningless? What can you say to someone who has been to a place where you, a parent, wish you would never visit?

True to human nature, my first instinctive reaction upon hearing the news was to wonder if my own children would be safe. Left to ourselves for a moment at the wake for the 18-year-old son of friends, my husband and I exchanged whispered consultations about the health of our two children. Had they taken the right tests? Were they taking the right medicine? What doctor's appointments had we missed or skipped? Was fate holding out a nasty surprise for us, too?

A mutual friend said something significant at the necrological services for his 18-year-old son, our friend said. There's a word for a child who loses his parents, and that's "orphan." There are terms for people who lose their spouses, and these are "widow" or "widower." But there is no term for a parent who loses a child. And that's because losing a child is simply unnatural. It's a violation of the natural order where one generation succeeds the previous one. Children bury and mourn for their parents. Parents should not be marking the passing of their children.

Because the heart has no words for the unspeakable, we seek to mask our deep discomfort with silly words. At the wake for the 7-year-old son of another friend, I found myself mouthing reassurances about how she now had a "Blue Dragon Angel" looking out for her. Her youngest son, after all, had been conceived out of his parents' desire to have a child born on a lucky "Blue Dragon" year. I knew the second the words left my mouth that they were, at the very least, empty of meaning. What need do we parents have for guardian angels, after all, when on earth we are supposed to look after the children entrusted to us? Are we not their guardian angels, too?

* * *

FOR the plane trip back home, I chose to bring with me the novel "The Lovely Bones." It was a bad choice, actually, because as the plane circled before landing in Manila, I found myself sobbing audibly, desperately seeking to mask my sniffles with tissue and a handkerchief, looking away as my seatmate glanced curiously around her, wondering what was causing all the ruckus.

It is a lovely book, though, a book where the author draws the reader into the world of her imagining, into the mind and heart of Susie Salmon, who is 14 and who is, at the opening of her story, already dead. In the novel, writer Alice Sebold tells the story not just of how Susie died, but also of how her family and friends cope with her disappearance and the emerging proof that she may indeed be dead.

From her perch in heaven, which Sebold paints as a setting in which one's deepest personal desires are reflected, Susie watches everyone she left behind—her parents, siblings and the boy who is her first love—blunder their way to acceptance, forgiveness and reconciliation. But what leaves the strongest impression is how Susie, removed from the corporeal world, yearns to be human again, longs to be flesh-and-bones, undergoing the pleasures and pains of growing up and growing old, of connecting and committing.

It's a revolutionary concept, that the dead who are home in heaven would envy the human condition.

* * *

SUSIE'S parents each seek divergent paths in the months and years after they realize that she is, indeed, gone. Her mother, smothering under the identity of the mother of a dead girl, wishes for escape and ultimately flees the family home. Her father, his sense of safety and security shaken to the very core, embraces his surviving children, holds them close and never wants to let go. But in the embracing, he also never lets them forget, unaware that at times letting Susie's memory go may be what they need to move on.

When her father suffers a heart seizure and is rushed to the hospital, Susie hovers near his inert form, one part of her wishing he would die, too, and join her in heaven and put an end to her loneliness, reasoning: "If he died, I would have him forever. Was this so wrong to want?"

But she is brought up short by her baby brother Buckley, for whom their father had become the primary adult figure in his life. "Please don't let Daddy die, Susie," he whispers into the night air. "I need him." And that is when Susie realizes it's also time for her to let go.

* * *

THERE are ways of coping and moving on. There are ways as well of remembering and, as Susie says of those she loves: of holding "an echo of me."

The mother of the 7-year-old takes comfort in her youngest keeping company with her husband, so recently, too recently, passed away. The parents of the 18-year-old find solace in the thought that in his last months, their son had found his dream fulfilled, spending a year at the UP College of Fine Arts to which he had aspired all of his young life. Was it too cruel, this last month, during which they kept vigil over him as he recovered from open-heart surgery, only to lose him to another heart attack? They choose to retrace these last days differently, seeing it as a chance given them, as parents and as a family, to know that they have done everything they could to save him, to reconcile themselves to his eventual loss, and to bid each other farewell.

Even in the unspeakable we can find traces of redemption and even of comfort.

'Child of Silver, Child of Gold'

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

WHILE the Spaniards in 1593 baptized Manila the "Very Noble and Always Loyal City," Tagalogs, according to Adjutant E. Hannaford, called her "Child of Silver and Child of Gold," a rather charming name, I must say, although this is the first time I ran into the phrase. For centuries and in the early years of the American regime, Manila was Intramuros, "picturesque, venerable, useless." (Such an attitude on the part of some of the American administrators makes it understandable why the State Department gave the order to protect the oil fields in Iraq but not the museums.) The walls, as far as these people were concerned, were antiquated, in fashion 200 years earlier by Vauban, but now obsolete.

A moat had been excavated centuries before by the Spanish rulers in response to numerous attacks by Chinese corsairs, the Dutch and the Moros who bedeviled them constantly. The trough was excavated around one side of the triangle facing the open fields, but with time it began to be filled with mud rather than water full of rotting vegetation. It stank and convinced the Americans that it was also a health hazard, given that cholera was rampant. The Americans thought the best thing to do was fill it up and declare it "for sale or lease," converting what otherwise was no more than an unsanitary moat into valuable acres of land.

Since the walls were "moss-grown" and "earthquake-rent," the Americans as well thought of tearing them down and recycling the stones for building blocks. The venerable stones would not have stood a bombardment or a storming column anyway. There were a great number of cannons atop these walls "so antiquated" that they must have been emplaced "fifty years before English colonists in America invented the Fourth of July." Foreign tourists though were quite taken with it, viewing it as "an ancient feudal fortress in the heart of the tropics."

It was for Hannaford a "singularly squat" city "with straight and partially grass-grown streets, great gloomy, square stone buildings, musty walls, and low roofs of tile or metal—a city somber, silent and austere." Practically all government offices were found within those walls, including some old barracks, workshops of the artillery and engineering departments, post office, cable and telegraph offices, the customs department, the treasury building and the city hall. In what outwardly looked weather-beaten and ordinary two-story stone building lived the archbishop of Manila, "the real ruler of the Philippines for three centuries." The interiors were a different matter: "The visitor passes through apartments of such magnificence as to make him cease to wonder why Manila calls it 'the palace.'"

There was no trade within those walls, with the exception of a few retail and craftsmen's stores. It was for the adjutant "a very dull place." Outside, however, were "the finest boulevards and promenades in Manila." "Few urban breathing places and society parade grounds in the world could eclipse the glories of the Luneta as they once were." In 1899, the Luneta was host to "a very spirited Fourth of July celebration…all classes turning out to see what 'the fiesta of North America,' as the newspaper termed it, was like."

It is amazing how little some things change over the years despite a world war. Rosario in Binondo is described as "the great mart of the common people and in spite of the cramped and crowded and dingy appearance of the stores, the indefatigable and smiling Chinese proprietors do a heavy volume of business during the year."

The other thing that hasn't changed is that Manila (then and now) "is not only water-soaked, but in danger of floating away, as soon as the rainy season sets in, the narrow streets of the native quarters turning into bottomless bogs or bayward-streaming torrents that require a boat to get about in." At least streets were better lit since electricity had been installed in 1895 during General Blanco's term.

According to John Foreman's estimates, the population of Manila and its suburbs at the turn of the century was about 400,000, consisting of 50,000 Spanish *mestizos*, 3,000 or 4,000 Spaniards, 60,000 Chinese, 5,000 to 10,000 Chinese *mestizos*, 300 Germans, 250 English, 300 Indians of India and a sprinkling of Swiss, Belgian, French and Italian. The rest were Tagalogs.

The Spaniards had dwindled to less than 4,000. Those in government returned to Spain and others were trying to get out. Bargains in sugar plantations were reportedly offered by Spaniards anxious to leave. "The higher class in Manila is composed wholly of usurers and pawn-dealers. All pawnshops and gambling houses belong to the principal mestizo families. There is not one family free of that stigma" according to a charming Belgian consul, Mr. Andre.

The Associated Press, in describing a ball given by the US Philippine Commission on June 1, 1899, "dwelt on the display of gorgeous native toilets and resplendent jewels, and naively added, 'The array of handsome women surprised the Americans.' They were only echoing what had been said a hundred times before by foreigners fresh from Manila fetes: the expensiveness and elegance of a full toilet worn by one of these languorous or passion-darting beauties recalls the fairy tales of one's childhood."

(Hannaford, Adjutant E., "History and Description of the Picturesque Philippines," 1901.)

Angel in the dump

YOUNG BLOOD

Agnes P. Sampiano

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

NAIVETE and prejudice clouded my vision then. Unlike my venturesome friends, I was content with finding work and remaining in the province after college. I had dreams of making it big somewhere—Europe, the United States, anywhere—except Manila.

I believe that attitude was brought about by an endless stream of gruesome stories: the horrors of the Marcos years, the Edsa revolution, bombings and massacres, smog and pollution. Manila, to me, was a city of despair and so much conflict. In high school, I understood so little.

Three months after graduation from college, I found work with an inter-island shipping line. I was happy and contented. My work allowed me to travel. Little did I know that after five years, I would find myself in the last place I wanted to be.

The day our ship sailed for Manila, I started to question my decision. I was starting a new life in a place I was only happy to visit for a few days in the past. The prospect of facing my fears and prejudices was not a very inviting thought.

As the ship maneuvered to dock at Pier 2, I instinctively looked at the infamous Smokey Mountain. Against the grayish sky, wisps of smoke billowed from the mountain of garbage, as if it were a torch heralding our arrival. Again, I wondered if I made the right choice.

Despite my fears, I stayed in Manila for three years until I got tired of the rat race and returned to the province, hoping to find peace and quiet. But nowadays I sometimes wish I were back there, despite all the pollution and the traffic. It wasn't so bad living there after all.

Oh, I learned to be wary of strangers, to automatically lock the door as soon as I got into a cab, even to walk the streets of Malate (where I lived) with a personal alarm in my pocket. But there were bright moments and nice experiences, too. One in particular stands out.

It was past 10 one October night and there I was, out there on the sidewalk in a drizzle. I was looking up to heaven, hoping that an angel would come down and give me a ride home.

Earlier that day, a friend and I had decided to do our weekend shopping at Makro-North Harbor right after work. Taking a taxi from our Pier 2 office, it was a 20-minute ride in light traffic. Toward closing time and with several huge plastic bags in purchases, we realized our mistake: we had no transportation! Just how were we supposed to get home? We felt so isolated standing there, staring at a parking lot that was emptying itself of tricycles, jeepneys and cars.

As the vast expanse of open space lay before us, we knew we had to do something. I bravely volunteered to go out to the highway and get a taxi.

With a great deal of trepidation, I walked toward the exit wondering how we got ourselves into this fix. In the darkness, the silhouette of Smokey Mountain loomed before me across the street. In daylight, it was a giant mound of soil with non-biodegradable materials protruding from everywhere and patches of grass growing where they could. But at nighttime it present a very intimidating outline.

I stood as near as I could to the gate for several minutes, a solitary figure in the rainy night. A car passed by, then a delivery truck, but no taxi. I had started to say the rosary, something I hadn't done in a while, when suddenly a pair of headlights came into view. It was like being in one of those horror movies, with the heroine rooted to the spot while a sinister figure comes out of the fog. A Tamaraw FX slowed to a stop before me. In my nervous state, I suppose I must have made a weak imitation of a wave.

I immediately noticed that the Tamaraw was not for public transport. Taking a deep breath, I opened the door, peered inside and asked the man in the driver's seat: "How much to Malate, *manong? Sa Remedios po.*"

Without hesitation, he said; "Hop in. We can talk about price along the way."

That certainly wasn't the answer I was expecting. Still, I climbed into the front seat. (Looking back now, that was perhaps the most daring or stupid move I had ever done in my entire life. Somebody could have just grabbed me from behind and everything would have been over in a flash. On the other hand, spending the night in a little corner of Tondo didn't seem like a much better alternative.)

I tried to act cool as we put our purchases at the back of the vehicle. But as soon as we started moving out of the parking lot, I stole glances at our "rescuer." As a last-minute safety measure and to ease our frayed nerves, we discreetly texted the plate number to our friends, just in case. My friend was uncharacteristically quiet the whole time, so I did most of the talking. I had to be brave for our own sake.

I started to make small talk by asking the man what he did for a living and whether he owned the Tamaraw. I wasn't interested in knowing more about him; I just wanted to keep him from entertaining any dark ideas.

I noticed that my friend had her head down, fingers flying on her cell phone's keypad. I hoped she was sending SOS messages to our housemates.

Mr. Nice Guy was answering my questions unreservedly. I listened for a slur in his speech, but there was none. He had no leer and made no suggestive comments. I started to relax.

Then our conversation shifted gears. He started to talk about religion, his views on the church, the Bible and society. That was surprise to me, but still did not prepare me for his confession. He was an ex-seminarian!

My judgmental mind did a U turn, allowing me to look at him from a different angle. Years of hard work were etched into his face. He was in shirt and jeans that had definitely seen better times. At my prompting, he talked about his family and his experiences like we were long-time friends.

I started to really listen. By the time we reached Remedios, a few tears had already fallen from my eyes. I couldn't believe it.

Before we said goodbye, I gave him P150 for his efforts. I fished for my calling card, thinking that maybe I could return the favor somehow, but I had none. I thanked him and told him I hoped to see him again.

Unable to sleep later, I mulled over the evening's events and I realized I just had learned a very important lesson. I knew he would have had settled for a smaller amount, but no amount of money could have paid fully for what he had shared of himself with us. It reminded me how prejudiced I had become, how judgmental. His unselfish gesture reminded me of something I had so long ago buried in my preconceptions: to put my trust in God who always has the answer, and to trust others who are sometimes angels in disguise.

Roland, my Smokey Mountain angel, taught me that out there are still people who can save lives or who just by their generosity can make others see the world from a whole new perspective. Wherever he may be, I hope that Roland has been rewarded a hundredfold for his kindness. I don't know if we will ever meet again, but then this is a small world and he and I have the same God looking over us.

Agnes P. Sampiano, 29, works at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City.

Billboards ought to be regulated?

OURS is an umbrella organization of 28 homeowners' associations in Metro Manila established to protect the rights and interests of communities and its residents. We are gravely concerned over the unrestrained proliferation of billboards along major thoroughfares in Metro Manila. One only has to drive along the length of Edsa to see how numerous and distracting these billboards are. Aside from being unsightly and blocking the skyline, these billboards pose a danger to motorists and slow down traffic since they promote crass values and are distasteful.

There are billboards showing scantily clad women endorsing liquor. Others encourage people to chat with sexy actresses over the phone, while some plainly advertise upcoming sex-oriented movies.

Another concern is the promotion of commercialism that is beyond the reach of the majority. Some billboards promote lifestyles that most of our countrymen cannot identify with.

Many billboards catering to the youth encourage them to adopt a materialistic lifestyle by purchasing branded clothes, accessories and equipment.

Sometimes billboards pose a threat to the safety of people, nature and property. During typhoons, some of the towering steel scaffoldings where the billboards are put up are blown down by strong winds. The steel scaffoldings of a billboard along Edsa between the Asian Development Bank and Poveda School crumpled during a heavy storm a while back. Fortunately no one was hurt, but the possibility is there.

There are billboards proclaiming a public official's support for certain projects, repairs of infrastructure, and even the beautification of an area. We believe that this is just a tactic to help them come election time. With elections drawing closer, we can expect such billboards to increase dramatically.

We believe that some sort of legislation is in order to monitor and control the placement of billboards, especially along highways and wherever they pose a threat to safety.

—MARIO C.V. JALANDONI,
president, Federation of
Residents' Associations Inc.,
#40 Solar Street, Bel-Air
Community Center, Bel-Air
Village, Makati City

Let law prevail in UP land dispute

WE wish to take exception to the column of Neal Cruz entitled "Squatting syndicate invade UP Campus," (PDI, 6/17/03), and the earlier news item written by Edson Tandoc Jr., titled "500 squatter-families invade prime UP land." (PDI, 6/15/03)

The reports were so sweeping that we wondered if Cruz and Tandoc had done their homework before they maligned us in public and besmirched our names.

The way they reported on the issue regarding that controversial lot along Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City shows that they only had one side of the issue on which they relied to buttress their arguments favoring UP. Their reports are far from the gospel truth.

Abdul Rauf Dimaporo, who hails from Tugaya, Lanao del Sur, is a Filipino whose good name has remained untarnished. He bought the lot from Luis Menor who is the predecessor-in-interest of Antonio Pael.

Contrary to the INQUIRER reports, Pael is the real and genuine owner of the lot. We have credible documents in our possession to corroborate this claim of ownership. They are exhaustive, real and material to the issue. Suffice it to mention that Pael's title, a Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT), is directly derived from an Original Certificate of Title (OCT), not TCT to TCT as in the case of the claim of UP and others.

The Pael lot of 74 hectares has a Survey Subdivision Plan which was approved by the Bureau of Lands. UP and other claimants have none to show.

What is more telling is that the Pael property is located in Barangay Culiat, Quezon City, but the description of the UP property puts it somewhere in Balara.

Having confidence that truth will sustain the rights of Menor and Dimaporo over other claimants, we are going to develop the property as a model community where Christians and Muslims can live side by side, in harmony and tolerance.

The report that the occupants of the lots are plain and professional squatters is not true. Professionals, government employees, people who are earning from lawful businesses were invited by Dimaporo to help in the development of the property. These are the individuals who have erected temporary houses to be later developed.

We are appealing to all the parties involved to let the law prevail in the resolution of this land dispute. The use of unlawful means to intimidate and provoke others to uphold the questionable claim of a powerful institution over peaceful and law-abiding citizens leaves a bad taste in the mouth.

—LUCMAN F. ESMAEL,
president, Bago-Ingud Islamic
Foundation Incorporated,
Barangay Culiat,
Quezon City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

A nasty example of abuse of workers

THIS letter is in reaction to your banner story, entitled "Sleepless in sweatshop," last July 3, which exposed the pitiful condition of garment workers who were reportedly being drugged by the owner of Anvil Ensembles, a garment factory in Taytay, Rizal, to keep them awake and working for three straight days.

Such a story reveals how sorry the labor situation is in our country where capitalists brutally exploit the workers just to gain more profits. And because workers have no other choice but to sell their physical abilities, they are held hostage to the condition set by the capitalists even if they are violative of labor standards.

The case of Anvil Ensembles is one of the nastiest example of capitalist-worker relationship. The management seems to have lost its hold on sanity when it resorted to offering drugs to tired workers to be able to meet quotas set by its principal contractors. Worse, the company deceived its 420 employees, 330 of whom were women, when it said that the drug it was offering contained only ascorbic acid or Vitamin C.

The Partido ng Manggagawa (PM) denounces this in the strongest terms. These firm's owners are no better than the drug lords that the government now wants to put behind bars. In this case, PM is pinning a significant portion of the blame on the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as well as the Senate and House committees on labor which have been sleeping on their jobs. They are the ones who should take Duromine capsules to keep awake when workers continue to be exploited and need their help badly.

—RENATO B. MAGTUBO,
chairperson, Partido ng
Manggagawa , #47 Masikap St.,
Bgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City

Natives

LAST Friday's INQUIRER featured Frank Fischer, an American who prefers to be called Kiko and who goes around in a G-string while living with the Mangyan-Buhid in Mindoro.

The case of this American Kiko reminds us that often it is non-Filipinos who seem to care more about the situation of our cultural minority groups. For most Filipinos, the cultural minorities are "natives," complete with pejorative connotations of the "backward" and "primitive."

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Such connotations did not come about accidentally. They come from decades of stereotyping and prejudice, dating back to the colonial period. The Americans called all Filipinos "natives" and eventually, the lowland Filipino—Tagalogs, Cebuanos and other dominant groups—dissociated ourselves from the label and reserved it for the cultural minority groups.

Just think of your own childhood and how you picked up your notions about natives. In my own childhood, the natives were for the most part invisible, known to inhabit the remote hinterlands. UP's anthropology department in fact still has a listed course called "Social and Economic Life of Philippine Mountain Peoples," a terribly archaic name that I hope we will eventually change.

Back to my story. Occasionally, we would see "natives" in the cities, or during summers, when we would go off to Baguio. But again, it was the differences between "us" and "them" that were highlighted. We were told the Igorots were headhunters, and when we misbehaved, our elders would threaten us, "*Sige, sige*, we'll give you to the Igorots." That kept us effectively within the confines of our vacation house.

I remember one time, while we were out playing, an old Igorot woman dressed in her traditional clothing came walking toward our house. Terrified, we all ran back to the house, screaming like we'd seen a ghost.

But there was a paradox here: While we were made to fear the native, they were also exoticized, transformed into objects of curiosity. I still have photographs of our clan's children—me with my sister in one, with cousins in another—the boys posing in G-strings and holding a spear, the girls wearing a *tapis* and holding a basket. For a brief photographic moment, we were "made" Igorot and native. The pictures were just quaint souvenirs, posing for them etched memories into our psyche of spear-wielding Igorot men and basket-carrying Igorot women.

It should not be surprising that our parents and grandparents held generally condescending views of the natives. I have old textbooks from the US colonial period, where cultural minority groups were described as "savages" and "barbarians," complete with photographs to emphasize their "backwardness."

Has there been change in the negative stereotyped images? Not really. I still have students at UP, aged 16 and 17, asking if there are still headhunters in northern Luzon, or if tribes in Mindoro have tails. The exoticization of the native continues because schools and the mass media are not doing enough to correct the stereotypes. At best, articles are patronizing, at worst, they are blatantly bigoted, still propagating old myths.

We complain about how the Philippines makes it to the international press only when we have typhoons or volcanic eruptions, or bombings. But note too how the native makes it to the news mainly when there's an epidemic, or famine, or some fanatical cult going on a rampage.

In college, I was fortunate to have joined volunteer groups that sent us to the Cordillera, an opportunity that allowed me to ditch the stereotypes about natives (and, I would like to think, the natives' stereotypes about lowland Filipinos). The native did not resist change; they resisted colonialism, first of the Spaniards, then of the Americans and now of lowlanders. The resistance was not without reason. They had seen how land had been grabbed, natural resources plundered, and cultures driven extinct. The situation of the native—the poverty, the high child mortality rate, the famines, the proliferation of cults—was the product of a situation that "minoritized" them.

The "headhunter" image is disappearing, but I actually have mixed feelings here because this fierce warrior stereotype is giving way to even more negative images. There is the native as an urban beggar. Or the native as a comic figure in movies and TV sitcoms. In other cases, the native is there for entertaining tourists with their dances (although in many cases, I suspect the dancers, and dances, aren't "native").

I worry, too, about how the current interest in things "ethnic"—clothing, music—takes on a faddish quality, still reducing the "native" to an exotic object of curiosity. This can take rather extreme dimensions. Remember the stories about beauty pageants where contestants tried to outdo each other with "talent" presentations imitating natives, usually by killing a live chicken in some faked ritual? Apparently such gimmicks continue today. I heard that in a recent "Male Exotic Dancer" contest, not just one but three of the contestants pranced on to the stage wearing "native" G-strings and doing their macho dance routines while ripping apart live chickens, feathers and entrails flying all over the stage.

Alas, there goes the "native," now an object of cheap imitation and pretentions to "authenticity," a dismal reflection of the lowlanders' search for an identity long lost to colonization.

On Thursday, I'm going to talk about how one initiative might help change this situation. Meanwhile, I've removed the quotation marks around native, hoping we might reappropriate the term, restoring some sense of pride and reminding ourselves of another more noble Webster dictionary meaning of the word: "an original or indigenous inhabitant of a region, as distinguished from an invader, explorer, colonist, etc."

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Terror raps filed vs Asia's most wanted man

From page A1

years ago.

State Prosecutor Peter L. Ong said charges of multiple murder, multiple frustrated murder and multiple attempted murder had been filed in the Manila Regional Trial Court against Hambali, born Riduan Isamuddin, Abubakar Bafana Faiz and Fathur Roman al-Ghozi.

Hambali and Al-Ghozi are Indonesians, while Faiz is a Malaysian. The three are considered the top leaders of JI, a regional terrorist group with links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Of the three foreigners included in the charge sheet, only Al-Ghozi will go'on trial. He is already serving a 12-year prison term in the Philippines, having been convicted of illegal possession of explosives. Hambali is still at large, while Faiz is detained in Singapore.

Hambali and Faiz were indicted based on confessions and evidence that they had conspired in the plot that resulted in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombing of the LRT commuter train at the Blumentritt station in Manila.

Ong said the justice department was still compiling evidence on four other bombings in Metro Manila that same day. The explosions ripped through a passenger bus in Quezon City, Plaza Ferguzon near the US Embassy in Manila, an abandoned gasoline station in Makati and a parking lot at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City, leaving 10 other people dead and at least 88 others wounded.

According to the charge sheet, Hambali and Faiz allegedly met with Al-Ghozi, Mukhlis Yunos, also known as Saifullah Yunos, and several others in Metro Manila a week before the LRT bombing.

The two alleged JI leaders were charged with plotting the bombing, having allegedly given Yunos P280,000 between November and December 2000 to finance the attack, according to the charge sheet.

The indictment reiterated that the bombing was carried out in retaliation for the government's capture of several MILF camps in Mindanao earlier that year.

Also included in the charge sheet was the alleged head of a special MILF unit, Alim Pangalian Solaiman. He allegedly sent Yunos to carry out the bombings in Metro Manila on orders of MILF chair Salamat Hashim.

Ong, however, said Salamat was excluded from the charge sheet because Solaiman's allegation was considered hearsay. The MILF, which has been engaged in on-and-off talks with the Philippine government, has denied any links with terrorist groups.

More charged

Even so, the justice department also included in its amended information four other alleged MILF members—Zainal Paks, Salman Moro, Ustad Said and Mohomad Amiror—for either helping plot the bombings or procuring the explosives. The new set of suspects were implicated by Al-Ghozi, who was arrested on Jan. 15, 2002, and Yunos, who was captured in Cagayan de Oro City in May.

The department had earlier filed charges against Yunos, a certain Colonel Efren Torres and Sammy Arinday.

Ong said another alleged MILF member of the plot, Cusain L. Ramos, had turned state witness in the case. Ramos, alias Abu Ali, allegedly helped the suspected terrorists in the purchase of explosives in Cebu.

Al-Ghozi and Yunos have allegedly described how Hambali and Faiz financed the purchase of about 70 kilograms of explosives used in the Metro Manila bombings and traveled to the capital to monitor the attacks.

Yunos allegedly prepared the bombs' wiring while Al-Ghozi reportedly admitted preparing the switch on the alarm-clock triggers and packing the explosives, the prosecutors said.

According to Ong, several witnesses had seen Yunos at the LRT station shortly before the explosion.

Yunos allegedly admitted that the US Embassy was among the original targets but tight security led the group to bomb instead Plaza Ferguzon across the street.

Indonesian police had previously said Hambali may have fled to Pakistan.

Anti-terrorism officials across Southeast Asia say the JI terrorist group aims to establish a Muslim extremist stronghold in the region and blame the group for last year's Bali bombings that killed 202 people as well as plotting to attack Western and Israeli targets in Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Philippine intelligence officials say the collusion between JI and the MILF in carrying out the Manila bombings proves that the Moro guerrillas have had links with foreign terrorists.

Al-Ghozi said he was sent to the Philippines in December 1996 to establish contact and familiarize himself with Mindanao after JI decided to join the "holy war" in Mindanao. He said he stayed at the MILF's Camp Abubakar for a month. He returned to Mindanao several times to establish more contacts.

Attacks condemned

The filing of the charges against Hambali and seven other suspected terrorists came as President Macapagal-Arroyo condemned the deadly terror attacks in Russia and Pakistan and said the Philippines would stand beside other nations in the "fight against terrorism."

Ms Macapagal also said the bombings should serve as a warning to Filipinos and law enforcers to remain alert against terror attacks at home.

She added that Philippine embassies abroad had already taken precautions.

"The Philippine government condemns the recent terrorist attacks in Moscow and in Pakistan. We know the pain of being victimized by terror and we stand firmly with all nations in the fight against terrorism," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

Two female suicide bombers killed themselves and 16 others at a rock concert in Moscow on Saturday while 48 Shiite Muslims were killed in another attack in the Pakistani city of Quetta on Friday.

Ms Macapagal did not say if the government would be taking any further measures in reaction to the incidents in Moscow and Quetta. Her administration has already been one of the staunchest supporters of the US-led international campaign against terror. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, AP and AFP*

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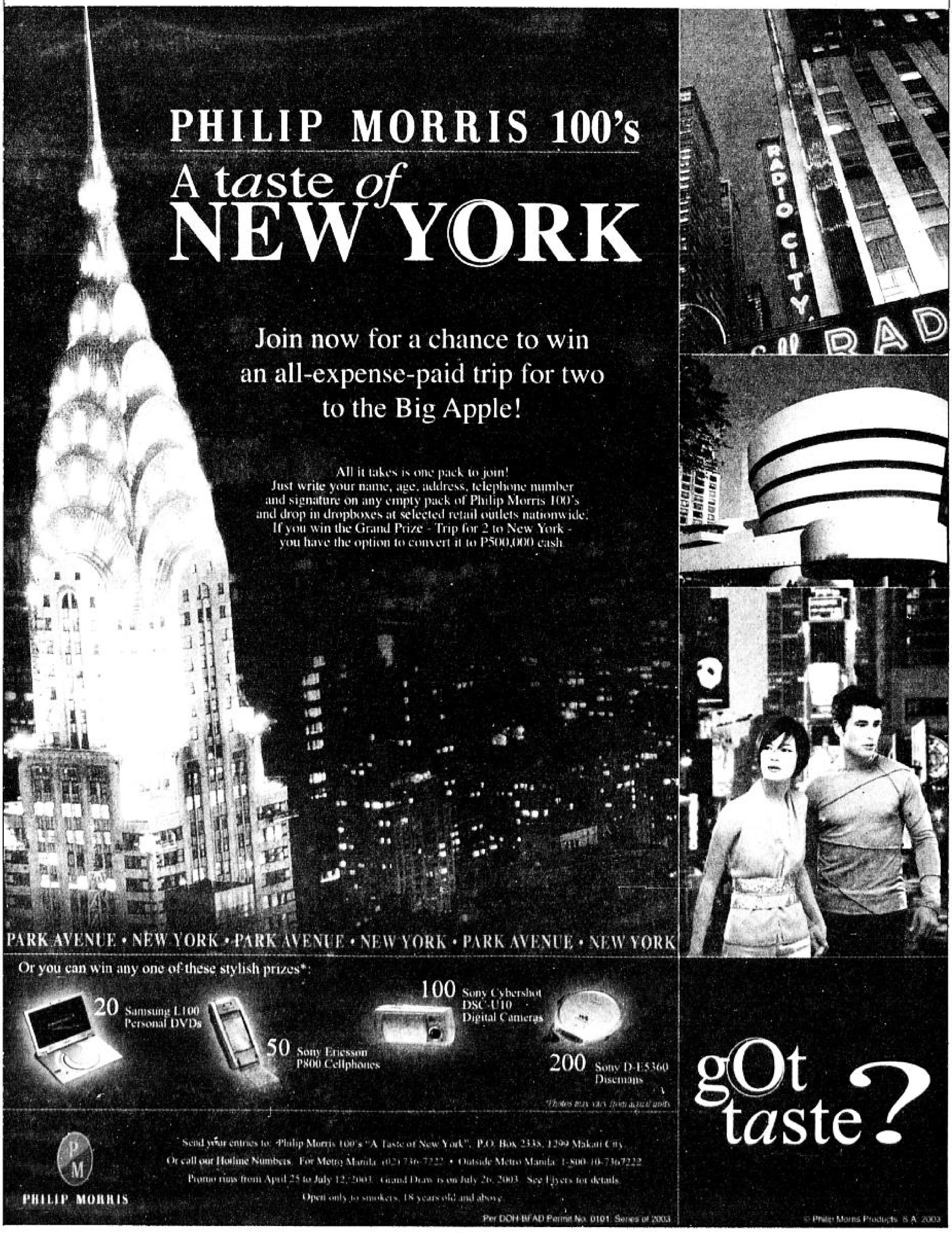
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Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

STUNNING REVERSAL

HK leader defers anti-subversion bill

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's leader agreed early Monday to delay an anti-subversion bill that drew a half million protesters into the streets and threw his government into its biggest crisis since the former British colony was returned to China.

Critics said Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa had lost control over Hong Kong and might not survive the predicament.

"Tung should take the blame and resign," said pro-democracy lawmaker Leung Yiu-chung. "This is an unprecedented political calamity that has wiped out the power and reputation of his administration."

In a stunning reversal, Tung announced Monday that the bill outlawing subversion, sedition, treason and other crimes against the state would not be submitted for a vote Wednesday. Tung had earlier insisted on that timetable. On Saturday, he said he would amend portions of the bill in a last-minute attempt to calm the criticism.

Opponents fear the legislation would lead to mainland-style repression of dissident viewpoints and undermine Hong Kong's freedoms of speech, press and assembly. It carries life prison sentences for many offenses.

An official in Beijing said Sunday the bill should be passed "on schedule," but Tung had to abandon the plan after a key legislative ally, James Tien of the pro-business Liberal Party, refused to go along. Tien announced his unprecedented resignation from Tung's top policymaking body Sunday night, saying the bill needed more public consultation.

Tung's government repeatedly denied Hong Kong's freedoms were in jeopardy but found itself in an unmanageable and unprecedented dilemma after the massive protest last Tuesday, the sixth anniversary of Hong Kong's return from British to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

An anti-subversion bill is required under Hong Kong's mini-constitution, but critics say the government tried to go too far with its measure. They accused Tung of betraying Hong Kong's "one country, two systems" form of government that guaranteed it could keep its Western-style civil liberties and freewheeling capitalist ways. *AP*

2 American soldiers die in ambush; 4 wounded

BAGHDAD—Iraq's cascade of violence claimed more American lives, with a bomb attack on a US military convoy in Baghdad early Monday and the shooting to death of another US soldier on patrol late Sunday night. Three American soldiers have been killed in attacks in the capital in a 24-hour period.

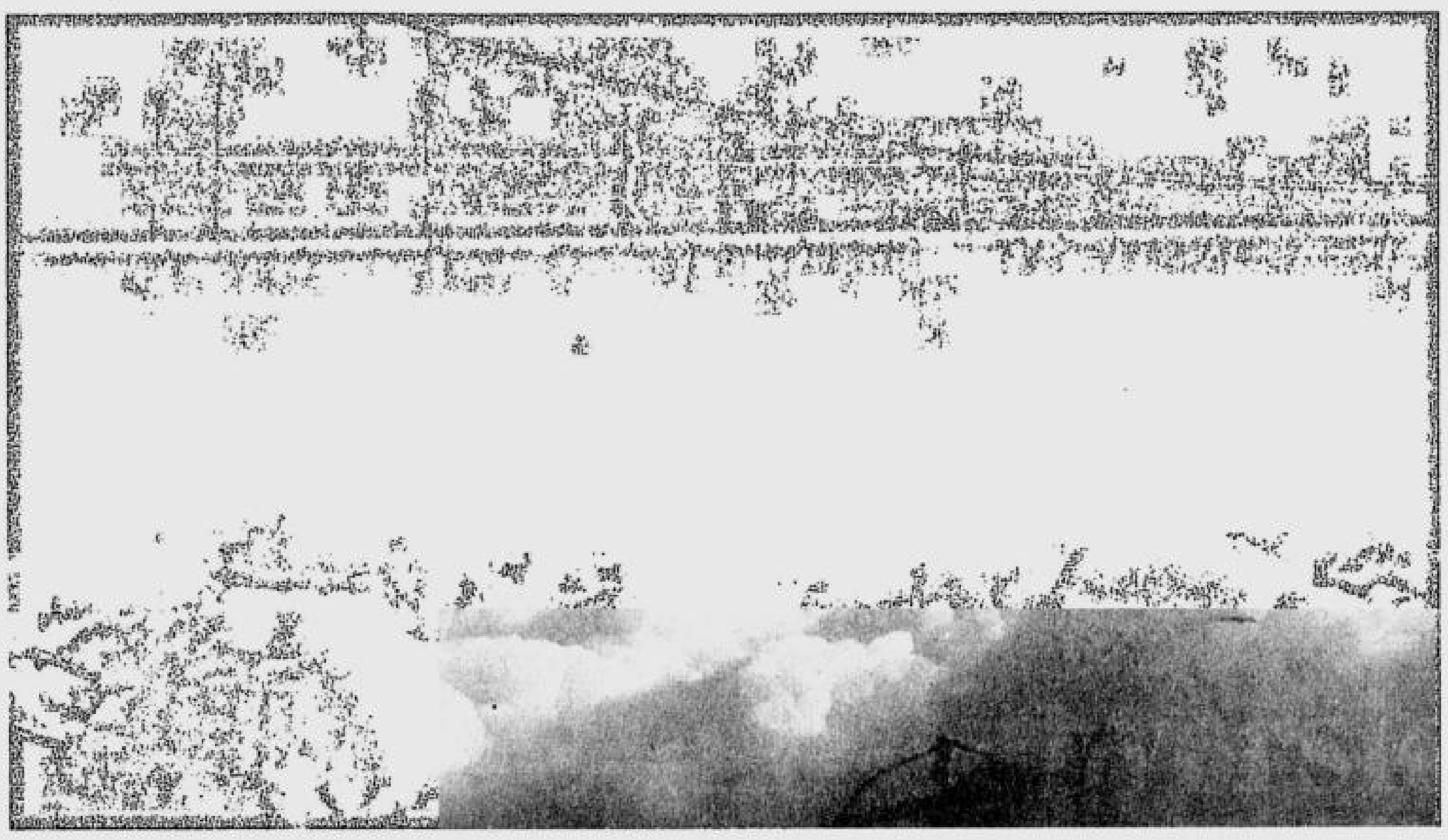
Early Monday, insurgents threw a homemade bomb at a US convoy in northern Baghdad, killing a soldier, said Sgt. Patrick Compton, a spokesperson for the military. Late Sunday, two assailants fired on another US military convoy killing another soldier. Troops returned fire, killing one of the attackers and wounding the other, Compton said.

The wounded suspect was taken into custody.

Also Sunday, US forces released 11 Turkish special forces detained Friday in northern Iraq, a Turkish official said, ending a diplomatic standoff between the two Nato allies.

Meanwhile, four US soldiers were wounded after attackers fired a rocket propelled grenade at their convoy in the restive Western town of Ramadi late Sunday, the military said. One Iraqi suspect was killed and another wounded in the attack.

Tension has been ratcheted up in the town since a bomb blast on Saturday killed seven Iraqi police recruits as they graduated from a US-taught training course. Dozens more were injured. *AP*



FOAMY RIVER

City sanitary workers cross the bridge over the Tiete river in Pirapora do Bom Jesus, 80 km west from Sao Paulo, Brazil, on July 5. The bridge has a water spray to reduce the size of the foam. Foam is the result of a mixture of chemical detergents and organic pollution thrown into the river during along its course, including Sao Paolo, South America's largest city. The population of Pirapora de Bom Jesus has registered a 161-percent rise in cases of respiratory ailments since 1999. AP

Putin vows Russia won't give in to terrorism

MOSCOW—In the wake of the twin suicide bombings at a Moscow rock festival, Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed Monday that the country would not give in to terrorism and asserted that Chechen rebels were supported by international terrorist groups.

The separatist rebels that have been fighting Russian forces for nearly four years in Chechnya are seen by officials as being behind the Saturday blasts that killed 15 people, including the two female bombers, and injured scores.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but news reports have said a passport was found at the site showing that one of the bombers was a Chechen.

Putin, in a meeting with his Cabinet, said that "today, after the latest series of terrorist acts, we can say that the bandits active in Chechnya are not simply connected with international terrorist organizations, they have become an integral, maybe the most dangerous part, of the international web."

"No country in the world bows to the dictates of terrorists and Russia will not do so either," Putin said, according to the news agency Interfax. "We must pluck them out from the basements and caves where they are hiding and destroy them."

The statement echoed the harsh language that Putin used as prime minister in 1999, shortly before Russian forces swept back into Chechnya at the start of the second war in the republic in a decade.

The conflict has deteriorated into a bloody stalemate in which Russian forces pound rebel positions with artillery and air strikes while the rebels kill Russians in near-daily hit-and-run attacks.

The Kremlin has refused to negotiate with Chechnya's rebel president Aslan Maskhadov and prominent human rights activist Lev Ponomaryov said Monday that policy only encouraged "ultraradicals." *AP*

Iran tests missile that can reach Israel soil

TEHRAN—Iran has conducted a "final test" of its ballistic missile Shahab-3, which is capable of reaching Israel and US forces stationed in Saudi Arabia and Turkey, the foreign ministry said Monday.

The test took place "several weeks ago," contrary to an Israeli report that it happened last week, ministry spokesperson Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters.

"Apparently, the Israelis are late in getting the information," Asefi said.

"It was a final test before delivering the missile to the armed forces. The range of the missile was the same as in Iran's previous tests," Asefi said.

Shahab-3 has a range of about 1,300 km, meaning it could reach Israel and US troops stationed in Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported the test was the most successful of seven or eight launches over the past five years.

The last time Iran declared a test of the missile was in May 2002 when Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani said the country conducted a test to "enhance the power and accuracy of Shahab-3 missile."

The Shahab-3 is allegedly based on North Korea's No Dong surface-to-surface missile but Iran says it is entirely locally made. "Shahab" means shooting star in Farsi.

The US state department imposed penalties last week on one North Korean and five Chinese companies for allegedly selling weapons technology to Iran. The companies denied the charge. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Crushing Aceh rebels to take years

LHOKSEUMAWE, Indonesia—Indonesia's current offensive against separatist rebels in Aceh province will take longer than the six months originally predicted and could take years, the military chief said. A long campaign in Aceh risks alienating the province's 4.3 million people and is likely to be a drain on the resources of Indonesia's cash-strapped government. The only winner from a drawn-out offensive will likely be the military itself, which analysts say benefits from alleged involvement in legal and illegal businesses in the oil- and gas-rich province. "I am certain that it will not be over in six months," Gen. Endriartono Sutarto told reporters Sunday in northern Lhokesumawe city. "The military operation could take a year, two years or even 10 years." *AP*

Cop chief fired after mosque attack

QUETTA, Pakistan—The city police chief and two other officers have been dismissed following the suicide assault of a mosque that killed as many as 50 Shiite Muslim worshippers, a top police official said Monday. Quetta city police chief Rehmatullah Niazi and the other officers were dismissed for security lapses that allowed as many as four attackers to storm a mosque in the heart of the city during Friday prayers last week, said Shoaib Suddle, chief of police for the southwestern province of Baluchistan of which Quetta is the capital. The attackers hurled grenades and sprayed worshippers with bullets as they prayed. Security guards killed three of the attackers and a fourth died in a hospital later of his wounds. *AP*

Party asked to abandon Islamic state

KUALA LUMPUR—Highlighting a growing dispute in Malaysia's political opposition, a fundamentalist Muslim party was urged by its allies Monday to discard plans for setting up an Islamic state and imposing strict criminal laws if it comes to power. Politicians warned the impasse could jeopardize an alliance of three opposition parties that forms the main challenge to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's ruling coalition in general elections widely expected by early next year. The Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, the linchpin of the alliance, recently issued documents reiterating core policies of setting up an Islamic state in this mostly Muslim country and introducing laws that include amputation for thieves and death by stoning for adulterers. Syed Husin Ali, president of the opposition Malaysian People's Party, which includes Muslims and members from other religions, said the Islamic group should not be "set on bulldozing its controversial policies" without the consent of its partners. *AP*

Australian police under fire

BRISBANE, Australia—Australian police came under heavy criticism Monday for using photos of living people, including Aborigines, for target practice. Media reported Sunday that the photos—usually "mug shots" taken after arrest—were used in training exercises by Queensland state's elite counterterrorism squad. "It is a despicable act," prominent Aboriginal leader Ray Robinson told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio. "I think it is outrageous in a country where we are trying to achieve reconciliation between black and white Australians." *AP*

Blair cleared of misleading solons on Iraq arms

LONDON—A parliamentary committee on Monday sharply criticized the government's handling of intelligence on Iraqi weapons but cleared Prime Minister Tony Blair's communications chief of "improper influence" in drafting a controversial intelligence dossier.

It also found no evidence that Blair or other ministers misled lawmakers in making the case for military action.

The House of Commons foreign affairs committee said a dossier published in September gave undue prominence to a claim that Iraq could deploy chemical or biological weapons within 45 minutes of Saddam Hussein giving the order.

It said the language used in the dossier was "more assertive than that traditionally used in intelligence documents," and that the "jury is still out" on the accuracy of the information contained in the dossier.

Blair's office rejected the criticism. "We stand by the September dossier," Blair's official spokesperson said, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity.

The cross-party foreign affairs committee said Blair "misrepresented" to lawmakers the status of another dossier on Iraqi arms, published in January, which included material copied from a graduate thesis posted on the Internet.

The committee said it was "wholly unacceptable" for the government to plagiarize work without attribution, as happened with the January dossier.

"We further conclude that by referring to the document on the floor of the House (of Commons) as 'further intelligence,' the prime minister—who had not been informed of its provenance, doubts about which only came to light several days later—misrepresented its status," the committee's report said.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the government believed it had been right in taking military action, despite the failure by coalition forces to find banned weapons since Saddam's ouster.

"Of course I understand that the public would like to see further evidence of the possession of chemical and biological weapons capability and plans to build nuclear capability," Straw told reporters. "But the evidence available... at the time we took the decision to go to war was overwhelming."

Straw again demanded an apology from the British Broadcasting Corp., which in May quoted an unidentified intelligence source as claiming a Blair—identified as communications chief Alastair Campbell—had redrafted the dossier to include the 45-minute claim. Blair has described the BBC report as "absurd," while Campbell said it was a lie. *AP*

Doctors hurdle peril in separating twins

SINGAPORE—Neurosurgeons performing a marathon operation to separate Iranian twin sisters joined at the head completed one of the most dangerous steps Monday by rerouting a shared vein as thick as a finger that helped blood flow through their brains, a hospital official said.

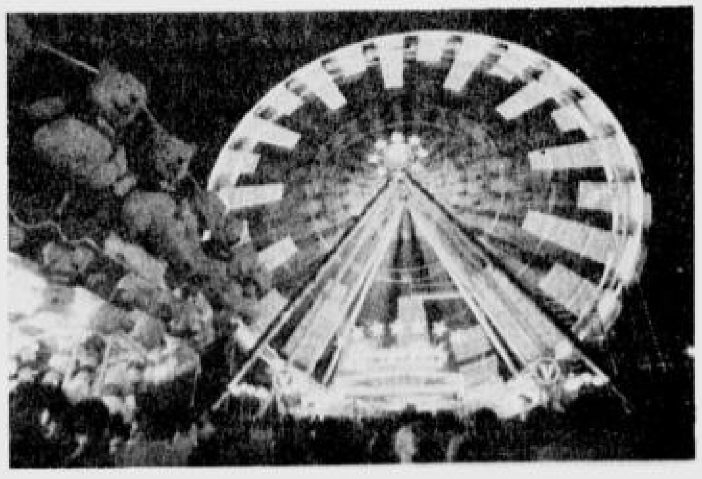
An international team of five neurosurgeons successfully attached a new vein and began separating 29-year-old Ladan and Laleh Bijani's brains in an unprecedented operation expected to last two to four days, a Raffles Hospital official said on condition of anonymity.

"Separation surgery began at 5 p.m.," the official said.

Tackling the shared vein was considered the biggest obstacle in the surgery: Other than sharing the vein, the women's brains are not joined—although they touch inside their skulls. Their bodies are otherwise distinct.

German doctors told the twins in 1996 that the shared vein, which drains blood from their brains, made surgery too dangerous.

"There may still be some difficulties encountered, but up until now we are quite satisfied with the progress of the whole surgery," Dr. Prem Kumar told a news conference earlier Monday. *AP*



EUROPA RAD

Visitors flock near a ferris wheel ride called "Europa Rad" at the World Carnival tour in Shanghai on July 6. The carnival, which was delayed due to the SARS outbreak, has already attracted thousands of visitors and will run for a month. China has launched a campaign to revive its once-booming tourism industry, virtually dead since April when the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome erupted in the country. REUTERS

AN OPEN LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD ON THE ISSUE OF THE NON-ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION TO THE VESSEL LCT M/V "GOLDEN SWAN"

Recent sea tragedies have again shown how perilous maritime transportation could be. These are recognized all throughout the world, hence, the emergence of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of which the Philippines is a member state. For the past years the IMO has adopted and passed conventions to address the causes of maritime accidents. These conventions are designed to ensure that ships plying the seas are safe by setting standards for the design, construction, materials and equipment of all ships. Among these conventions are the INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA 1974 and its Protocol of 1978 (commonly known in the shipping industry as SOLAS 74/78) and the INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF SHIPS CARRYING LIQUEFIED GASES IN BULK (otherwise known as the IGC CODE or the International Gas Carrier Code).

Recently, the Philippine Coast Guard has been under extreme pressures, albeit unfairly, from certain sectors, to issue a Certificate of Inspection (CI) to LCT M/V 'GOLDEN SWAN", a landing craft transport designed for the carriage of general cargoes. The owners of "GOLDEN SWAN" have openly declared that the vessel would be used for the carriage of Anhydrous Ammonia, a dangerous liquefied gas defined under the IGC Code, along with other general cargoes intended for its plant in Palompon, Leyte.

As the implementor of maritime safety, the PCG has consistently maintained in the past that "GOLDEN SWAN" must be reclassified from a LANDING CRAFT TRANSPORT (LCT) to a LIQUEFIED GAS CARRIER (LGC) if she is to carry dangerous liquefied gas in bulk such as Anhydrous Ammonia. This position of the PCG is consistent with the PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE RULES AND REGULATIONS 1997 (PMMRR 97) which adopted SOLAS 74/78. In turn SOLAS 74/78 clearly mandates that a gas carrier should comply with the requirements of the IGC Code. Thus, PMMRR 1997 and Regulations 11 to 13 of SOLAS 74/78 clearly provide:

PMMRR 1997

"Regulation I/3 – Scope of Application

> 1. Existing ships as defined in these Rules and Regulations flying the Philippine flag in which, by their size and type of operation, are covered by international maritime conventions, shall remain to be covered by such international conventions and by these Rules and Regulations as suppletory thereto. These maritime conventions are as follows:
>
> ***.1 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974/1978, as amended;"***
>
> SOLAS 74/78
>
> "Regulation 11
>
> Definitions
>
> x x x x x x x x x
>
> 2 Gas carrier means a cargo ship constructed or adapted and used for the carriage in bulk of any liquefied gas or other products listed in Chapter 19 of the International Gas Carrier Code.
>
> Regulation 12
>
> Application to Gas Cariers
>
> 1 Unless expressly provided otherwise, this part applies to gas carriers constructed on or after 1 July 1986 including those of less than 500 gross tonnage. Such gas carriers shall comply with the requirements of this part in addition to any other applicable requirements of the present regulations.
>
> x x x x x x x x x
>
> 3 A ship, irrespective of the date of construction, which is converted to a gas carrier shall be treated as a gas carrier constructed on the date on which such conversion commenced.
>
> Regulation 13
>
> Requirements for gas carriers
>
> 1 A gas carrier shall comply with the requirements of the International Gas Carrier Code and shall, in addition to the requirements of regulation I/8, I/9 and I/10, as applicable, be surveyed and certified as provided for in that Code. For the purpose of this regulation, the requirements of the code shall be treated as mandatory."

LCT M/V "GOLDEN SWAN" has been recently allowed to carry anhydrous ammonia in bulk. The PCG is reluctant to issue the CI to "GOLDEN SWAN", as this is the very first time that a general cargo LCT vessel is allowed to carry a dangerous liquefied gas defined under the International Gas Carrier Code, in the absence of a clear and well defined safety standards applicable to such an unconventional type of vessel.

The PHILIPPINE PETROLEUM SEA TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (PHILPESTA), the association of 92% of all tanker owners and operators in the Philippines, fully supports the PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG) in declining to issue the CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION to the vessel LCT M/V 'GOLDEN SWAN". Whenever a maritime accident occurs, all sectors of our society bewail the seeming lack of pre-emptive measures by government agencies, and the shipping industry as well, to prevent the occurrence of such accidents. PHILPESTA's support to the PCG is geared towards PREVENTION.

While PHILPESTA member-companies commiserate with the owners of "Golden Swan" due to the non-operation of their vessel, they cannot simply sit idly by knowing that safety standards for ships intended for the carriage of liquefied gases in bulk, such as anhydrous ammonia, may have been blatantly disregarded, if not unwittingly missed.

PHILPESTA commends the PCG's stand in upholding the greater interest of the public and maritime safety by withholding the issuance of a CI to LCT M/V "GOLDEN SWAN" despite undue pressures to do so from some sectors.

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Central Mindanao cop chief sacked

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Camp Crame finally sacked Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, Central Mindanao police director, after several sectors, including the media, petitioned for his ouster.

Replacing Tor is Chief Supt. Manuel Raval who formally assumed his post on July 2.

Tor did not show up during the turnover ceremony as he was in Manado, Indonesia, attending a conference, according to police authorities.

Tor had angered civilian officials in the region after it was noted that illegal gambling activities increased during his term.

South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes said there were reports Tor was behind the resurgence of *jueteng*, not only in her province but in the whole region as well.

Raval admitted that his main task was to win back public confidence, which was eroded by reports his predecessor was involved in illegal gambling.

"I am happy because we know him (Raval) as a man of good reputation," Fuentes said of Raval's appointment.

Raval had served as the region's top police executive from February 1999 to November 2001.

He was then reassigned to Northern Mindanao.

Protest in Pampanga

In Magalang, Pampanga, a police official tasked with supervising the fight against illegal drugs in Central Luzon was protesting a recent relief order given by the regional police commander, describing it as "highly erroneous and illegal."

In a June 23 letter to Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Philippine National Police chief, Senior Supt. Conrado Briton protested his relief as deputy regional director for administration of the region's police. That position mandated him to supervise a regional task force against illegal drugs.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director, designated Briton as the executive director of the Central Luzon Drug Rehabilitation Center (CLDRC), a position Briton was holding in a concurrent capacity even before Querol's order.

Briton said the order was illegal because only the Sagip Bie (Save Lives) Foundation, which helped the PNP establish the CLDRC in 1999, has the sole mandate to appoint the center's executive director.

The order, he suspected, did not pass through the PNP's senior officers placement and selection board.

Briton told Ebdane the order was "done in bad faith."

He said he was relieved after he "denied the inclusion of two unqualified PNP applicants, who were ordered to be included by (Querol) during the processing of 100 applicants into the PNP in May 2003."

Briton said he was defying an order for the first time in his 30-year police career. "I have served many commanders in the past but this is (a) different one. I am no longer looking for any promotion or assignment. I just cannot take the erroneous and illegal orders of my regional director. I am sorry but I cannot honor the order," he said.

But Querol, the PNP's former acting directorate for operations, denied Briton's accusations and said the conflict was about priority.

"Even before my assignment (in Central Luzon), Briton was asked by (officials of Camp) Crame to be the full-time executive director of (CLDRC) or deputy regional director for administration (RDA). As executive director, it requires full-time responsibility, so are the jobs of deputy RDA and anti-illegal drugs task force (head)," he said.

Querol said they only implemented the PNP promotion board's order. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Doctor declared winner in Negros town elections

TANJAY CITY, Negros Oriental—After two years of litigation and only about nine months before next year's polls, the Supreme Court declared a medical doctor as the real winner for the 10th and last slot for city councilor during the 2001 elections.

Dr. Rolando Tabaloc failed to assume his post after the 2001 polls due to the erroneous entries in the Certificate of Canvass of Votes (CCV), which showed that he was only number 11 in the ranking. This resulted in the "inadvertent" proclamation of the other candidate, Felix Barot.

The decision of the High Tribunal did not mention the respective number of votes garnered by Barot and Tabaloc.

But the error cost Tabaloc his right to sit in the city council for two years despite the immediate move of the Board of Canvassers (BOC) of Tanjay to correct the mistake.

Tabaloc told the INQUIRER that he hoped Barot would allow him to take his seat in the city council immediately now that the Supreme Court had decided on the case.

Records of the case showed that on Aug. 3, 2001, the Commission on Elections *en banc* granted the petition of Tanjay BOC chair Erlinda Nochefranca to correct the erroneous entries of the CCV and the proclamation of winning candidates.

But Barot questioned the Comelec's order before the Supreme Court, insisting that the poll body did not have jurisdiction on Nochefranca's petition and that he was not afforded due process.

He secured a Temporary Restraining Order from the High Tribunal on Aug. 21, 2001, stopping the Comelec and the BOC from correcting the entries of the CCV that would have paved the way for Tabaloc's assumption as city councilor.

In its 12-page decision, the Supreme Court dismissed for lack of merit Barot's petition to set aside the Comelec's resolution.

Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

Woman killed by death squad

DAVAO CITY—A 50-year woman became the latest victim of the dreaded Davao Death Squad.

Cina Ubas was accounted as the 17th person to have been killed by the anti-drug vigilante group since it went on a killing spree on June 16.

Police said Ubas was inside her residential compound in New SIR-Matina Sunday noon when a gunman appeared from behind and shot her. The suspect fled on board a motorcycle.

Police recovered four spent shells of .45 caliber pistol.

Police said the Ubas Compound and its neighborhood are known lairs of suspected rich drug pushers and users.

The victim's killing came as eight more self-confessed drug pushers and users yielded on Sunday. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NEW HOME

RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

After four months at the evacuation center, this family is back to their place in Kabasalan, Pikit, North Cotabato where they rebuild their houses and start a new life.

After 95 years, Baguio gov't to legitimize Ibaloi ancestral land claims with permits

BAGUIO CITY—The city government last week laid out guidelines that would finally legitimize untitled land claims being staked by Ibaloi clans, the first such step made since Baguio was built 95 years ago by the American colonial government.

A new set of policies will guide the city government in issuing building permits to Ibaloi ancestral land claims that were processed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the late '90s, City Engineer Leo Bernardez said on Monday.

Mending conflicts

The building permits would effectively mend legal conflicts between claimants and government institutions like the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

Most of these claims cover government reservations like Camp John Hay, the Baguio Economic Zone and the Busol Watershed, including the lands being claimed by heirs of Ibaloi herdsman Mateo Cariño.

Cariño won a landmark case against the US government in 1909 when the US Supreme Court acknowledged his rights over lands that later became Camp John Hay. The so-called Cariño doctrine helped shape the controversial 1995 Indigenous Peoples Act (Ipra).

Between 1998 and 2001, Baguio formally asserted Section 78 in the Ipra, which excluded the city from ancestral land coverage, when it opposed several land claims being processed into Certificates of Ancestral Land Claims (CALCs) by the DENR.

The recent Baguio land use plan does not reflect ancestral land claims.

DENR records show that only 87 CALCs were issued to claimants before the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) assumed jurisdiction over this process. The NCIP issues Certificates of Ancestral Land or Ancestral Domain Titles (CALTs and CADTs).

Survey validation

Close to 757 Baguio Ibaloi claims have since undergone extensive survey validation and anthropological investigation by the DENR and the NCIP, although not all passed the requirements, according to a study commissioned by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

The study said American laws applied on Baguio lands at the turn of the 20th century forced Ibaloi communities to relocate to the fringes of what eventually became Baguio City. This explained why current ancestral land claims are found within forest and government reservations.

Bernardez said he is waiting for a legal opinion regarding claims found within reservations. The draft policy will rely on an NCIP certification, drawn up by all commissioners, before the city government issues a building permit to a claimant, he said.

No rules

The NCIP has no available rules that would allow claimants to develop their respective land claims, said Leilene Carantes-Gallardo, NCIP Cordillera director.

The commissioners need to confer *en banc* to allow a claimant to build houses or farms on their ancestral land properties, she said.

But claimants have started to reoccupy their lands since 1991, which had led to several court cases between clans and Peza and DENR.

To date, the NCIP had not issued titles to many of these claims. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Geothermal drilling

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Philippine National Oil Corp.-Energy Management Division (PNOC-EDC) is gearing to harness geothermal energy in Dauin town. Celestino Catacutan, acting chief of the Southern Negros Geothermal Production Field, said the PNOC-EDC was scheduled to drill a geothermal well in Barangay Baslay, Dauin either in late September or early October. The activity will determine if there is enough geothermal energy of commercial quantity in the area. For the project to continue, the PNOC must generate at least 20 megawatts of power from the site.

Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

Random drug tests

DUMAGUETE CITY—Both the Dumaguete City and Negros Oriental provincial governments will conduct random drug tests among their officials and employees as part of the campaign against illegal drugs. Gov. George Arnaiz said he was willing to be the first to undergo the test. City Mayor Agustin Perdices said local officials should take the lead in taking the test to show the government's sincerity in stamping out the drug menace. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cops in hot water

CEBU CITY—More than 20 policemen are in hot water after they failed to undergo the surprise drug test during the launching of the renewed anti-drug campaign last June 30. Supt. Augusto Marquez, chief of the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division in Central Visayas (RIID-7), said these policemen should explain why they did not take the drug test. If they failed to justify their failure to take the drug test, Marquez said the PRO-7 would conduct a summary hearing against them. The RIID 7 ordered 37 policemen to report to the launching of the Regional Anti-Illegal Drug Special Operation Task Force in Central Visayas in Mandaue City. But only 14 submitted themselves to the surprised random drug test.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Villamor; 65

BACOLOD CITY—Former Bacolod City Mayor Rolando Villamor on Sunday said Constancio Legaspi, 65, died on July 5 in Denver, Colorado. Legaspi, chair of the Council of Lions Club Presidents-Negros Occidental, went to the US with his wife Amalia, to attend the Lions International Convention. He complained of chest pains and was brought to a Denver hospital for a comprehensive check-up. He, however, suffered a seizure, said his daughter Sheelah Buencochillo. His remains will be brought to this city on Saturday. He is survived by his wife and children Sheelah, Sharon Schmidt, Constancio Legaspi Jr., Clinton Legaspi, and Clyde Legaspi. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Highway robbery

BACOOR, Cavite—Six armed men held-up a Crow Air Bus while travelling along Aguinaldo Highway, Talaba on Sunday night, police said. The bus bearing plate number DVT 144 was driven by Billy Panganiban, 30, a resident of Mendez town. Investigation disclosed that the men armed with short firearms and two hand grenades boarded the bus in Pasay City. When the bus reached Barangay Talaba, the armed men announced the holdup and divested the 55 passengers on board of money and cellphones. Police are pursuing the armed men who alighted in Barangays Salitran and San Agustin, Dasmariñas.

Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Detainee appeals to be freed for sick baby's sake

By Grace C. Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Five-month-old Gabriela has a hole in her heart and a growing mass on her liver.

Government and private doctors, who had examined the child, agreed that what she needs is an immediate operation.

For Zenaida Llesis, the baby's mother, the money needed for the operation was the least of her problem. Finding the money would be easier.

Her prime concern was that her baby would die because authorities continues to refuse to free her.

It would be hard to separate mother and child because the baby was being breastfed.

"(She) does not deserve to suffer the consequences of the principles I believe in," Llesis said of her daughter's fate.

Soldiers arrested Llesis, allegedly a ranking communist party leader, during a raid in Pangantucan, Bukidnon on Aug. 5, 2002.

She was pregnant then but her condition did not deter the military from detaining her at the Bukidnon Provincial Rehabilitation Center (BPRC) in Malaybalay City.

While under detention, she was constantly questioned about the Communist Party of the Philippines and its activities, including its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

On Feb. 19, Llesis gave birth to Gabriela under tremendous stress. She was rushed to a hospital much later. By this time, the baby had ingested her waste, nearly poisoning herself and her mother.

At the government hospital where she was taken, Llesis was put under heavy security. Soldiers and policemen literally littered the corridor of the hospital.

Llesis appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to release her so that Baby Gabriela could be treated.

"I am begging President Macapagal-Arroyo and all the mothers to help me save my baby, I cannot allow her to die because I am in prison," a tearful Llesis said.

Emmi de Jesus, Gabriela secretary general, said it would be difficult for mother and daughter to be separated. De Jesus said the Macapagal administration should be humane enough and order Llesis' release from detention.

"Llesis was still pregnant when we called for her release on humanitarian grounds. Now that she gave birth to a very sick baby due to her stressful condition while in detention, we are again appealing to the government," De Jesus said.

Dr. Reggie Pamugas, secretary-general of the Health Action for Human Rights, told the INQUIRER that the baby's situation needs immediate attention in a competent hospital.

Hospital authorities released the baby on March 19 because they could only do so much.

But Marie Hilao-Enriquez, secretary general of Karapatan, said they begged that the baby and her mother stay because of the child's delicate condition.

Baby Gabriela's life would be threatened more if is kept with her mother in jail.

Enriquez hoped that the President lifts her finger so that the baby would get treatment.

"If the government freed the Manero brothers, who killed a priest and ate his brains, I don't think there is nothing the government could do with the mother and daughter who does not deserve a heartless and unmindful society," Enriquez told the INQUIRER.

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 421 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Maceda backs off

From page A1

the first place.

Bunye maintained that no deals were made when the President met with Cojuangco on July 2 at the Villamor Air Base. "The President herself said that during the meeting no deals were discussed," he said.

Coconut farmers in Quezon province praised Yorac.

Oscar Santos, former Quezon representative and a member of the Philippine Coconut Board, said Yorac's combative posture was the "redeeming hope" of millions of coconut farmers in their struggle for the return of the hundred-billion-peso coconut levy fund.

Rene Cerilla, president of Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka-Quezon, called Yorac the "modern-day heroine" of the coconut farmers. "She struggled to wake up from her sickbed only to contest Maceda's impending appointment to SMC. We salute her for that," he told the INQUIRER.

He said Ms Macapagal should emulate Yorac's dedication to the pursuit of justice.

But Santos expressed his fear that "something more is brewing related to the 2004 political landscape."

"Maybe, just maybe, Mr. Cojuangco is now inclined to give up his fight for the coco levy. That he would now return it all to the coconut farmers in exchange for the presidential endorsement to his presidential bid, which would eventually create him as a hero before the eyes of the farmers. We all don't know because of this lack of transparency," Santos said.

Santos said that all agreements between Cojuangco and the government should bear the stamp of transparency.

Roco's reaction

Presidential aspirant Raul Roco said he wholly agreed with Yorac that Maceda should not sit in the SMC board.

"Haydee Yorac is absolutely correct," he said, adding that there was no need for the President to make the offer as a "gesture of reconciliation," as Maceda claimed.

"Why should a reconciliation be based on transaction?" he asked. Roco, a former senator and education secretary, has also served as SMC corporate secretary.

He denied having a hand in the spate of bad publicity against Cojuangco. Instead, he accused the SMC chair's supporters of sowing intrigue against three Palace officials who reportedly support him as the administration standard-bearer in case Ms Macapagal does not run next year.

"We have no capacity or inclination for intrigues of that sort," Roco said. He said the People Power Coalition—an alliance of Lakas, Promdi, Reporma, the Liberal party and his own Aksyon Demokratiko--remained in force. "PPC is composed of five parties and NPC is not one of them," he said.

Congress, militants

In Congress, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran charged that the President's compromises with Cojuangco had rendered the PCGG's efforts worthless.

He agreed with Yorac's position that Maceda would only strengthen Cojuangco's hold on SMC, a sequestered company.

Beltran said the PCGG has not made any significant headway in recovering the people's funds funneled into SMC through the illegal appropriation of the coconut levy.

But he said it wasn't the PCGG's fault.

"The lack of political will and principled effort is solely on the part of the Macapagal presidency itself. The President has chosen to maintain amicable political ties with Cojuangco, entering an undeclared alliance with him and thus compromising the PCGG's campaign to pin Cojuangco," he said.

Militant groups also expressed support for Yorac's position while hitting the administration's complicity.

"The nitty-gritty of the Gloria-Danding secret deal is beginning to unfold," said Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair Rafael Mariano.

Aside from a deal on the coco levy fund, the peasants group also said it feared a compromise deal would also include the exemption of Cojuangco's vast tracts of land from redistribution.

In a separate statement, the militant fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas asked Yorac to call for the ouster of Cojuangco as SMC chair, along with his appointees in the 15-member SMC board.

"Ms Yorac and the rest of the PCGG people must spoil all Palace moves that would serve the special interest of the Cojuangco camp in SMC. The situation warrants the removal of the Cojuangco group to save the P130-billion coconut levy representing 47-percent ownership shares in SMC," Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said.

Asked about Yorac's objection, Maceda said he saw no conflict of interest if he did become an SMC director.

"The board does not decide on those matters," he said, referring to the coconut levy cases. *With reports from Juliet Javellana; Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Dona Pazzibugan, Cynthia Balana, Norman Bordadora*

Cojuangco allies see politics in Maceda snafu

By Carlito Pablo

ALLIES of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. suspect there's more than meets the eye in ex-Ambassador Ernesto Maceda's nomination to the San Miguel board.

Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero, spokesperson of the Nationalist People's Coalition which Cojuangco founded and Maceda chairs, said the nomination may have been made with ill intent: that of generating a political backlash against Cojuangco himself.

Escudero said that this could be seen in the strong opposition expressed by Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, to the nomination.

Escudero said: "If there's indeed politics involved here, (it's in the fact that) Maceda was included in Malacañang's search committee list knowing fully well it will elicit such a reaction from Yorac."

Escudero said that it was possible that the reported Malacañang faction supporting declared presidential contender Raul Roco was responsible for putting Maceda's name on the nominees list. "The same group could have put Maceda's name there," he said.

House sources claimed the other day that the pro-Roco bloc in the Palace was composed of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz and Presidential Adviser Vicky Garchitorena.

Escudero said: "It's a small faction that will not cause the demise of the Lakas-NPC coalition."

He noted, however, that Yorac was "not a party to whatever politics is going on."

"The PCGG under Yorac is not involved in politics," Escudero said.

He pointed out that the NPC did not lobby for or demand the appointment of Maceda to the SMC board.

"We wouldn't mind if Maceda is appointed or not," Escudero said. "His nomination did not come from us."

6 Bicol governors support Cojuangco's . . .

From page A1

ing governors: Raul Lee of Sorsogon, who also belongs to LDP; Al Francis Bichara of Albay, Jesus Typoco of Camarines Norte and Leandro Verceles of Catanduanes, all affiliated with the ruling Lakas-CMD; Antonio Kho of Masbate, who is with Reporma, and himself.

They had originally committed to support President Macapagal-Arroyo, but decided to support Cojuangco "after consultation with our leaders," said Villafuerte.

Another Bicolano, ex-Sen. Francisco "Kit" Tatad, chair of Puwersa ng Masa's advisory council, said during an earlier interview that he was inclined to back Cojuangco.

Villafuerte said at least eight Bicol congressmen had also expressed support for Cojuangco's presidential bid.

The lawmakers include Masbate Representatives Emilio Espinosa Jr., Vida Espinosa and Fausto Seachon Jr.; Camarines Norte Rep. Renato Unico Jr.; Camarines Sur Rep. Felix William Fuentebella; Albay Rep. Carlos Imperial; Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero, and Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago.

Villafuerte also said Cojuangco supporters were "in the process of consolidating our political forces down to the barangay and precinct levels in the entire Bicol region."

Asked why they picked Cojuangco over Lacson, Villafuerte said he and the other political leaders firmly believe the business tycoon is the "most qualified among the presidentiables" and the "right man for the job."

As for fellow Bicolano Roco, Villafuerte said: "We'd rather support a non-Bicolano presidentiable like Cojuangco than somebody like Raul Roco."

Campaign plan

Cojuangco was scheduled yesterday to fly to Naga City. Tomorrow, Cojuangco will take a short trip to Bataan to meet with political leaders in that Central Luzon province.

Ernesto Maceda, NPC chair, said Cojuangco was planning to go around the country consulting the people in the next four to six weeks.

Maceda said after the sorties Cojuangco would decide whether to run for president in 2004.

"Cojuangco did say that he would announce (his political plans) in August or September," Maceda told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Opposition Sen. Serge Osmeña said it was but "natural" for Cojuangco to go to the provinces, noting that the latter apparently wanted to "find out if he could get sufficient support for the presidency."

Osmeña told reporters that after all "it was no joke" to gun for the presidency, "given the enormous amount" of money, manpower and energy required.

He said that anything was possible in the presidential race, as Cojuangco could be an administration or an opposition candidate in the end, depending on whether President Macapagal-Arroyo reconsiders her decision not to run in 2004.

The senator said it would also help if Cojuangco commissioned a survey to find out if people would vote for him and a particular running mate.

This would help determine his chances in the presidential race, Osmeña said. He recalled that when Cojuangco ran for the presidency in 1992, the votes of his running mate, then Sen. Joseph Estrada, did not transfer to him.

Maceda said he and other Cojuangco supporters had not really intended to make their first sortie in Roco country. He said it just so happened that there were new local leaders who needed to be sworn into their party.

Yesterday, three town mayors took their oath as NPC members under the local leadership of former Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella at the town plaza here.

The event Cojuangco attended had all the trimmings of a political rally. More than a thousand people gathered at the town plaza and enjoyed free lunch. *With a reports from Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

The 'Boss' bares game plan in case he wins...

By Jerry Esplanada

BUSINESSMAN Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco is still testing the waters for a possible presidential run, but the man his employees and associates call "Boss" already has a game plan in case he wins the May 2004 election.

If elected president, Cojuangco said a "call for unity" would be his first order of the day.

"We have to have unity because the Philippines needs every single person to carry the nation through the storm," said the former Marcos-era ambassador now chair of San Miguel Corp.

Cojuangco's game plan was laid out in the May issue of People Asia magazine.

The founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition also said he would love to see everyone "work efficiently on programs to address key issues, like the budget deficit, peso depreciation, spiraling costs of basic goods and services, high unemployment rate and peace and order."

Former Press Secretary Rod Reyes, who belongs to a pro-Cojuangco group, told the INQUIRER: "Danding is the most qualified among the presidentiables in getting the country out of the political and economic mess the Philippines is in right now."

In his magazine profile, Cojuangco said: "I love this country. I could have gone to Australia or any country in the world after my exile (in 1986). But I chose to return to the Philippines because I want to be a part of its legacy and history."

"I want to see the country grow and be world-class, like what we're trying to do for San Miguel. I want to do this, first of all, for my countrymen, but more personally for my grandchildren because I do not want them to go through what I have gone through in the past."

Arguably the closest friend of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Cojuangco fled the country with the Marcoses in February 1986.

In 1992, he ran for president but lost to Fidel Ramos.

Cojuangco said his "first decree" would be to "call for an economic summit that will specifically enumerate concrete programs such as massive privatization and generate as much as $30 billion over time by leasing out the assets and franchises, such as the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. or Pagcor, airports, the National Power Corp., etc. on a long-term basis rather than sell them outright."

Audit uncovers ₱4-B UCPB 'behest loans'

From page A1

ply secured the payment of the amounts due under the said transactions."

The loans to the three firms were part of the P10 billion in behest loans allegedly granted to Cojuangco-linked companies that has further weakened UCPB since 1999. The bank has been forced to seek P20 billion in financial assistance from the state-run Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. The rescue plan was inked yesterday.

PDIC president and chief executive Ricardo Tan expressed optimism that UCPB, which has seen losses mount and its capital erode over the past several years as the 17-year-old ownership dispute constrained it from getting equity investors, would be able to achieve a turnaround in five years or even less.

"We do not see any reason why confidence (in UCPB) will not be immediately restored," Tan said during a press briefing after the signing.

Separate reports

Audit reports made separately for the three companies said the loans were approved hastily and without the mandatory background check review on loans, particularly multimillion-peso corporate loans. With the mountain of bad loans amassed during the 1997 Asian financial crisis, most business firms have to contend with stricter borrowing procedures.

The reports questioned why the UCPB executive committee would lend billion-peso short-term loans to Lucky Star and Asturias to build cement plants (in Pangasinan and Batangas, respectively) that would only start paying off in three to four years.

The report noted that the loans extended to Lucky Star and Asturias were made amid heavy losses suffered by local cement companies arising from the surge in cheap cement imports and the steep drop in cement prices.

The reports also questioned UCPB's acceptance of shares in Cyber Bay—the developer of the Amari reclamation project off Manila Bay whose contract was nullified by the Supreme Court recently—in granting a P700-million loan to Skyssets, a lease aircraft operator.

Assistance package

In the PDIC briefing, Tan also announced the appointment of Jose "Jojo" Querubin, former Bank of America country manager for the Philippines, as president and chief executive of UCPB.

At present, UCPB chair Edward Go is concurrent CEO.

Querubin, who is expected to assume his post within the week, said that to get the bank on the road to profitability he would focus on reducing the bank's nonperforming loans and boosting its deposit base.

Under the financial assistance package agreement signed, the PDIC would buy P13 billion of the bank's non-performing assets (NPAs) and extend a 10-year direct loan convertible to equity.

Of the P13 billion in NPAs, the PDIC would purchase P8 billion outright while P5 billion would have to be bought back by UCPB after 10 years. The purchase of the NPAs permits a recapitalization of UCPB of about P7 billion, representing the amount of provisions reversed.

As for the P7-billion direct loan, P2 billion would be in the form of tier two capital, meaning subordinated debt considered as capital. The remaining P5 billion would be in the form of a loan that would be converted into tier two capital once UCPB raises the corresponding amount of tier one capital.

The immediate impact of the financial assistance package will be to improve UCPB's capital, non-performing loan and other key asset ratios.

To safeguard its interests, PDIC would have the right to nominate eight out of UCPB's 15 board directors.

Sources said that the state agency, through the Presidential Commission on Good Government, would soon elect to the board former Equitable PCI Bank president Deogracias Vistan, noted economist Armand Fabella, and former senior officer of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Ruben Almendras.

In 1986, some 95.29 percent of the bank's common shares were sequestered by the PCGG to ensure that assets from the coconut levy funds—which awaits a final court ruling on whether they are public or private funds—were preserved pending the final decision of the courts on the ownership of the bank.

Cojuangco, who will reportedly run for president in the country's 2004 national elections, and farmer groups are claiming ownership of the funds, and effectively the bank.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said that the PCGG may soon ask the Supreme Court to again remind the Sandiganbayan to immediately resolve the coco levy issue.

PDIC noted that the resolution of the sequestration issue should help UCPB attract a strategic investor.

PCGG to investigate onerous UCPB deals

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday said it would investigate onerous transactions entered into by the previous management of United Coconut Planters Bank that allegedly benefited businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

"The commission will take appropriate steps against persons and institutions that have contributed to the current state of UCPB," PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. said during the signing of a P20-billion government financial assistance agreement to help the troubled bank.

Carranza refused to elaborate on his statements, but said that by next week, the PGCC may be able to report its findings based on an audit done on bank transactions under the previous administration.

He said he did not want the issue of onerous transactions confused with the signing of the rehabilitation package between the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. and UCPB.

Burdened by huge amounts of soured loans, UCPB has long been financially ailing. Its inability to raise new capital because of unresolved ownership issues had further deteriorated its finances.

But aside from the bad loans, the bank is also hobbled by allegedly onerous transactions.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that during the Estrada administration, UCPB management led by bank chair and chief executive officer Geronimo Kilayco forged a memorandum of agreement with five private oil mills reportedly owned and controlled by Cojuangco.

Kilayco, in an agreement dated October 1999, allegedly signed in behalf of the three oil mills owned by the Coconut Industry Investment Fund—Legazpi Oil Co., Granexport Manufacturing Corp. and San Pablo Manufacturing Corp.—to lease, with an option to purchase the oil mills linked to Cojuangco.

Kilayco, it turned out, is a cousin of PCGG lawyer Edgardo Kilayco, who was assigned to the coconut levy case during the time of Estrada.

The five oil mills linked to Cojuangco are Indophil Oil Mills Inc., Southern Island Oil Mill Corp., PCY Oil Manufacturing Corp., Metroplex Commodities Inc. and Countryside Millers Inc.

Based on the PCGG investigation, Kilayco allegedly agreed to pay a deposit of P200 million for the lease and partial payment for the acquisition of the oil mills. The amount, according to sources, is equivalent to six years' rental of the oil mills at about P3 million a month.

By Feb. 5, 2001, Kilayco allegedly forged a supplemental agreement with the five oil mills linked to Cojuangco, this time exercising an option to buy the companies at P879 million.

Sources said the valuation had no approval from either the board of the UCPB or the CIIF.

Under the supplemental agreement, P180 million of the earlier disbursed P200 million was applied to the purchase price.

Together with some P422 million in receivables from the private oil mills, the total amount of P602 million was disbursed and credited as part of the downpayment for the five oil mills without the necessary approvals.

The balance of P277 million was due on Dec. 31, 2001, based on the supplemental agreement.

"What Kilayco did was to cause the disbursement of almost a billion pesos to purchase the private oil mills which are not needed and whose valuation is suspect," a source noted.

Another source claimed that the CIIF oil mills were already operating below their rated capacities at a time when market demand for copra was weak. Thus, there was no need to buy additional oil mills that were already 20 years old.

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Mayor: Dirty cops transferred, not axed

By Luige del Puerto

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. has raised the alarm over police "scalawags" making the rounds of the cities and towns in Metro Manila.

He issued the warning after he learned that erring lawmen, specifically those found positive for illegal drug use, were only being transferred from one assignment to another, instead of being dismissed from the service.

Abalos cited the case of four officers whom he earlier recommended for dismissal, although verbally.

"The police told me that erring cops can only be transferred, or directly ordered for rehabilitation," the mayor said. "And if these prove ineffective, only then can they be suspended."

The four officers tested positive in a drug test Abalos ordered on Mandaluyong City policemen.

The test was not part of the random testing being conducted by the PNP.

Abalos said the city had been conducting random drug tests on policemen for four years.

"What I really wanted was their dismissal, but I don't have the power to do that," Abalos said of the verbal recommendation for dismissal he made to the city police chief.

To prevent "scalawags" from getting transferred from one place to another in Metro Manila, Abalos said he would share the city's list of "disgraced" policemen to other mayors.

"We already talked about this in the (Metro Manila Mayors') Council," Abalos said. "I raised it up because honestly, I don't want Makati or Quezon City, for example, to be handing me their scalawags. In similar way, I don't want to hand them scalawags from my city."

The Mandaluyong mayor said he already asked the Metro Manila Development Authority to put up a database on erring cops from which mayors could check for scalawags.

Mandaluyong City has been closely looking into the drug cases which policemen have handled in order to improve the city's conviction rate of pushers and users, Abalos said.

A task force is retrieving the documents on drugs cases filed in the city so it can assess whether a policeman has been effective or not in the campaign against illegal drugs.

Abalos said the current conviction rate in the drug cases in the city was only about 70 percent. Two years ago, it ranged from 20 to 30 percent.

The mayor added that they were also monitoring the manner by which the cases were being handled by the city's judges and prosecutors.

Citing claims by judges and prosecutors, Abalos said one of the reasons why suspects get away was because policemen commit mistakes in making arrests.

"If we see a pattern, then we can infer from it what is happening," he said.

The city's findings will be submitted to PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane to help in its policy making.

Lifeguard rapped for hotel pool drowning

By Amy Remo

A LIFEGUARD of the Danarra Hotel in Quezon City has been held responsible for the death of a 7-year-old boy who drowned in the hotel pool during a children's party in May.

In an affidavit before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office, Leonardo Hilago, 38, of Barangay South Triangle, Quezon City, was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

His alleged carelessness resulted in the death of Nelcris Claros of Bagong Baryo, Caloocan City.

Charges were filed by the boy's father, Nelson Claros.

Reports showed that on May 4, Claros attended a friend's birthday party, which was held at the pool of the hotel.

Hilago claimed that he was the lone lifeguard at that time and the pool was full of visitors.

At about 5 p.m., Hilago noticed a body on the floor of the pool which turned out to be Claros.

The lifeguard said he performed cardio pulmonary resuscitation on the boy for five minutes but failed to revive him.

Claros was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

Hilago said that he did his best at his job to keep watch over the pool and save Claros.

A Danarra Hotel official refused to comment on the incident following the advice of their counsel.

MMDA men armed with sticks, shields

By Leila Salaverria

SIDEWALK clearing personnel of the Metro Manila Development Authority will be armed with truncheons and shields so they can defend themselves from violent vendors.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday said the personnel would be trained in crowd dispersal as well.

Fernando said that since his last year's plan to arm his men with bolos has been turned down, arming them with sticks against irate peddlers would be the next best thing.

Fernando pointed out that the operations have become so violent that even police officers tasked to assist the MMDA have been asking for helmets.

"Even little children are throwing things at the MMDA personnel," Fernando told reporters yesterday.

He said that as long as the vendors fight back, there would always be persons who would be injured.

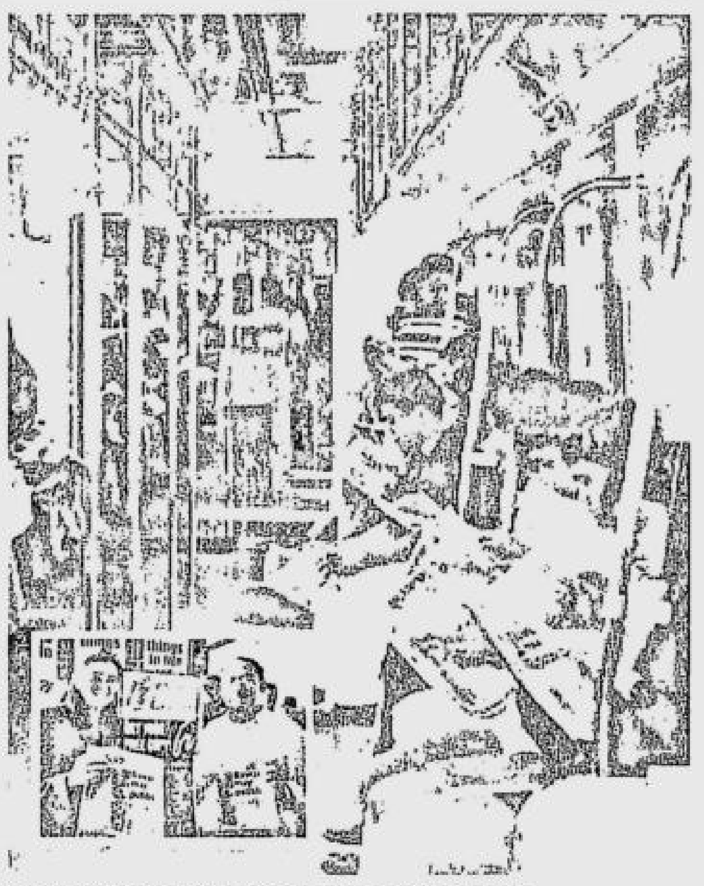
Last week, the campaign claimed the life of its second victim, bystander Poon Baceron, who was hit by a stray bullet fired during a clash between vendors and MMDA personnel in Baclaran.

Militant groups Moro-Christian Peoples' Alliance and Bayan have condemned the violence and the strong-arm tactics of the MMDA in Baclaran.

Yesterday, their members trooped to the MMDA office to denounce the killing of Baceron.

Amira Alilidasan, secretary general of the Moro-Christian Alliance, yesterday asked whether or not it has become the MMDA's policy to arm its men with M16 rifles, saying that Baceron was felled by a bullet fired from such a gun.

"There is fear and anger (among the Moros in Baclaran) because of the MMDA," said Amira Alilidasan, the group's secretary general. "The Muslims in Mindanao are being bombed, and now, in Metro Manila, their livelihood is under attack."



INQUIRER LIBRE NOW ON LRT-2 LINE
Commuters can while away their time reading Inquirer Libre. (Inset) INQUIRER President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and LRTA Administrator Teodoro Cruz are among the first to pick up copies of Libre.

PDI PHOTO

No room in prison

CONDITIONS at the Makati City Jail have gone from bad to worse following the roundup of hundreds of drug offenders in recent weeks.

According to city jail warden Supt. Ernesto Romero, the facility is packed with more drug suspects than the prison can hold.

Romero said in a report to Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay that 588 inmates booked on drug charges occupy the jail, or 66.5% of the total 884 inmates.

The detention cell is only designed to hold 400 prisoners.

In a statement, Romero said the rise in the city jail's population was due to the arrests made by the city police force.

Of the 588 drug offenders, 378 are male, and two of them are foreigners—a Chinese and a Pakistani. There are also 108 women and two minors behind bars.

Binay said he would implement Oplan Decongestion, where 113 inmates would be transferred to other institutions every month. *Leila Salaverria*

METROBRIEFS

Card player hacked

A CARD player never saw what hit him after a neighbor hacked him to death Sunday in Quezon City. Eugenio Balundo, 34, of Phase 3, Lower Enriquez, Payatas B, QC, was concentrating on his next move while playing "tong-its" outside his house when Bienvenido Villegas, 31, appeared behind him and started hacking away at Balundo using a bolo. Balundo died on the spot. Villegas later told the police that Balundo had tried to shoot him a few months ago. PO1 Romel Merino however said Villegas appeared suffering from delusions due to suspected drug use. *Alcuin Papa*

Stabbed near NKTI

THE CENTRAL Police District is puzzled over the killing of a man who was stabbed to death along a dimly lit stretch of East Avenue near the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) in Quezon City on Sunday night. Identification cards with the name Donato Lanuza of Balogo, Sorsogon, were found on the body which was discovered at about 8:45 p.m. Probers have ruled out robbery. *Alcuin Papa*

Man found hanged

A LABORER detained by volunteer watchmen to "cool off" was found a cold corpse while hanging from inside the Barangay 868, Zone 25, detention cell in Pandacan, Manila. Rommel Antonio, 25, of Kahilum II, Pandacan, was accosted by Kagawad Joselito Geronimo for carrying a dagger and angrily challenging an uncle to a duel. He was found hanging from the ceiling of the detention cell at 6 p.m. His relatives are crying foul play. *Margaux Ortiz*

Orthodontics gab

AHESCOR/3M UNITEK will conduct a lecture on July 20, 2003 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Dr. George Soh, a graduate of Baylor University, Texas, with a Certificate and M.S. Degree in Orthodontics, will speak on "Clinical problems associated with the selection and application of biomechanics of pre-adjusted/pre-angulated appliances in the orthodontic treatment of Malocclusion." A nominal fee will be charged which is inclusive of lunch, snacks and certificate. For particulars, please call 551-4679 and 551-4680.

Jalosjos out, Yap in as NBP's chief inmate

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

A FORMER mayor convicted for masterminding the murder of a political rival replaced a former congressman as the head of the National Bilibid Prisons inmates.

Rey Yap, former mayor of Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental, is now the new chair of the penitentiary's Maximum Security Compound Council of Elders.

Yap replaced former Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos in an emergency election conducted on June 23, where eight out of the 10 groups at the penitentiary voted for Yap.

In their letter to Bureau of Corrections director Dionisio Santiago, the inmates said they had "lost (their) trust and confidence" on Jalosjos.

The inmates also wrote in a letter addressed to NBP director Supt. Francisco Abunales that the inmates needed "a dynamic and non-partisan chair who could unite and lead us."

They did not specify a reason for ousting Jalosjos but a source said the inmates thought he was partial to some groups.

Abunales confirmed the change of leadership in a phone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said Yap visited and talked to Jalosjos in his cell last week but Abunales was not privy to what they discussed.

The chair of the council of elders has no specific term of office, according to the NBP director.

Yesterday, more than 9,000 inmates jogged around the penitentiary to show their support for the new leadership, Abunales added.

As the new council chair, Yap is tasked to coordinate with the prisons administration in counseling and disciplining the inmates and maintaining peace and order inside the penitentiary.

Yap was convicted in 2001 for masterminding the killing of Rizal, Zamboanga del Norte Mayor Victorio Cebedo, two weeks before the 1992 elections.

Cebedo was then up against Yap's brother Roy in the town's mayoral race.

Meanwhile, Jalosjos is serving two life terms for raping an 11-year-old girl in 1996.

LATE SPORTS

Gonzales seeks court's help

By June Navarro

TALK N Text power forward Norman Gonzales yesterday sought the help of a regional trial court in Angeles City in stopping the indefinite suspension slapped on him by the Philippine Basketball Association for allegedly testing positive for drugs.

Gonzales, through his lawyer Efren Hipolito Jr., asked the court to issue a temporary restraining order against the league.

Talk N Text team manager Frankie Lim said the Phone Pals management would not interfere on the case.

"He (Gonzales) is on his own now. We tried to dissuade him from filing the case," Lim told the INQUIRER.

Gonzales tested positive to the party drug Ecstasy two months ago.

He named the PBA and the league's commissioner, Noli Eala, as respondents.

Hipolito acknowledged the "laudable" purpose of the PBA's mandatory drug testing. But he said the league's powers and functions "cannot go beyond the Constitution and applicable laws."

He said the league's compulsory or mandatory drug testing violates the constitutional rights of players, "particularly the right against self incrimination."

"Unless a drug test is imposed as a pre-employment requirement, it will infringe on the constitutional rights of the player because compliance is not voluntary on his part, and it deprives him of his right to work or be employed," Hipolito said.

Deputize armed civilians

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THREE-STAR police general Reynaldo Velasco, Metro Manila police chief, has declared an all-out war on street crimes in the metropolis.

Velasco ordered all district commanders to identify top crime-ridden areas in Metro Manila so more policemen could be assigned to those areas.

Here's a piece of unsolicited advice to Velasco: Assign police officials who will monitor the movements of policemen making the rounds in crime-prone areas.

* * *

If nobody's watching over them, the cops on the beat will be somewhere else doing other things than keeping the peace.

Policemen, especially in Metro Manila, are so undisciplined they need to be watched over closely. They are like the proverbial mice that play when the cat is out.

Close monitoring of their movements will ensure that cops are at their posts or patrolling their respective beats. Most Metro Manila cops can't be trusted.

* * *

Haven't you noticed? Cops arrive at the scene only after the criminals have long gone.

Why? Because cops are somewhere else while a crime is being committed.

If they're at the scene at all, they're the ones committing the crime!

* * *

Street crimes—such as theft and robbery—take place because there are no uniformed cops around.

Would-be criminals are deterred by the sight of uniformed policemen.

Policemen in uniform patrolling the beat are as rare as a chicken's tooth.

* * *

Velasco's order to go after street criminals was a result of a scolding police officials got from President Macapagal-Arroyo in February for being ineffective in protecting citizens from thieves, muggers and other bad guys.

Police response to street crimes, she said, "has not been satisfactory."

There's a way to bring down street crimes since the police can't be trusted: deputize armed citizens to patrol the streets.

* * *

By "armed" citizens, I mean responsible gun owners who are very proficient with their guns. These people belong to the Philippine Practical Shooting Association (PPSA) that holds competitions regularly among its members.

I've talked to many PPSA cardholders who are responsible members of their community, and they expressed willingness to take part in fighting street crimes so long as they are deputized.

Many PPSA members own two-way radios that can be used in communicating with deputized fellow members or with the police headquarters.

* * *

Deputizing civilians to do police work is not unique.

Some places in the United States that have a small number of police personnel appoint responsible members of the community as police deputies. These civilians are not paid.

Why doesn't the President consider this proposal? She needs all the help that she can get to fight crime.

Please consider this writer as a volunteer.

* * *

Should you decide to adopt the proposal, Madame President, you will find that you won't lack for volunteers.

There are many citizens waiting for a chance to serve their country by helping rid the streets of street criminals.

But, of course, the volunteers will have to be thoroughly screened.

* * *

Let's get down to the heart of the problem of why policemen are not so eager in fighting crime.

First, the government doesn't take care of them when they're wounded in combat. They buy their own medicines when they're confined at the hospital. Sometimes, they pay their hospital bills.

If the policemen get killed in combat, the government doesn't take care of their widows and orphans. Some policemen's widows who are young and pretty end up becoming mistresses of lotharios at the Finance Center in Camp Crame.

* * *

Policemen who get charged in court for doing their job are not given lawyers to defend them. These harassed cops are left by their superiors to fend for themselves.

The cops hire their own lawyers to defend them in court for job-related cases when the police force should be providing them lawyers.

Knowing these, can you blame cops for keeping away from trouble when they should be there to prevent it?

* * *

As one policeman I know said: "*Ano ako, bali? Bakit ko isusubo ang buhay ko sa gulo, hindi naman ako o aking pamilya bibigyan ng proteksyon kapag may mangyari sa akin* (I'm not crazy to risk my life when I know that me and my family won't get protection from the government if something happens to me).

Well said.

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BILLIARDS: Asian 9-Ball Tour; 8 a.m. (r); Star Sports—Rewind and take another look at the quarterfinals of the Manila leg.

TENNIS: Wimbledon; Men's Singles Final and Ladies Doubles Final; 9 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Catch a replay of the men's finals and ladies' doubles final from the All-England Club.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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More athletes, fewer officials for SEA Games

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IF THE Philippine Olympic Committee would have its way, this year's Southeast Asian Games will have the most number of Filipino athletes, but also the fewest officials who sometimes end up as "junketeers" in the biennial games.

In an attempt to show good faith to its benefactors, the POC yesterday said it would prune down the number of coaches and officials going to the Vietnam Games.

The traditional ratio is one official for two athletes.

So far, there are 422 athletes who have qualified for the Games. Under the old practice, 211 slots would have been alloted for officials.

But SEA Games Task Force chief Steve Hontiveros said the 211 figure is way too high and promised to limit the number of officials in Vietnam to the minimum to avoid a bloated delegation.

"We will see to it that the officials who will be there are those who are really needed to be there," Hontiveros said. "As much as possible we will do away with the usual ratio of athletes and officials and give utmost priority to the athletes."

It is the possibility of funding a huge contingent that forced the Philippine Sports Commission to push for a strict criteria for participation until President Macapagal-Arroyo announced, through PSC chair Eric Buhain, that all athletes chosen by the POC should be supported by the PSC.

Buhain maintained, however, that not all officials picked by the POC would be funded.

The country used to send half as many officials as the athletes but this practice has been criticized because many officials end up as tourists instead of taking care of athletes in previous Games.

Hontiveros said national sports association presidents and accompanying officials will have to spend their own and won't be included in the list to be funded by the PSC, which has set a budget of P40 million for the plane fare, accommodation, allowances and equipment of SEAG athletes and officials.

"Definitely, we will need a medical team there, and there are coaches who need to be with the athletes most of the time," he said. "But I will refer to the rule book regarding the sending of officials."

The POC vice president said the SEA Games rule book has different rules on accommodating officials for different sports, but he maintained that officials will be fewer this time unlike in the past.

Ferrer draws first blood for Team RP Revicon

BANGKOK—Team RP Revicon got the good start it wanted in the World Amateur Boxing Championships when welterweight Florencio Ferrer stopped Herdey Anak of Brunei Sunday night at the Bari Stadium here.

Ferrer, 20, scored at will against the Brunei fighter, forcing the referee to halt the bout and declare the Cadiz City native winner by RSC-O (Referee Stopped Contest-Outclassed) halfway through the second round.

"This is a good omen. Florencio's victory gave RP Revicon a headstart in this very tough tournament. I hope this rubs on the other guys," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez. "They are in top condition and their morale is very high."

Other members of the squad are light flyweight Harry Tañamor, flyweight Violito Payla, bantamweight Arlan Lerio and featherweight Joegen Ladon. The coaches are George Caliwan and Boy Velasco.

Ferrer, who saw action in tournaments in Lithuania and Spain in May, tries to advance to the third round when he battles a Romanian in the two-ring, two-session tournament that lured 380 boxers from 64 nations.

Payla and Ladon see action against a Ukrainian and a French, respectively, in the opening bouts of their weight divisions.

Team RP Revicon is being supported by Pacific Heights, the Philippine Sports Commission and Accel, the official outfitter.

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US WOMEN'S OPEN

J-Ro winds up 13th, earns almost ₱3M

ROSALES tapes blisters on her left foot on the 18th fairway. JONG ARCANO

By Jong Arcano

PORTLAND, Oregon—Just as big as the clutch birdie putt rolled in by Angela Stanford on the 18th to forge a three-way, all-American playoff for the 58th US Women's Open title, Jenny Rosales pulled off a glorious save of her own with the putter on the 17th to salvage a respectable tie for 13th finish here on Sunday (Monday in Manila).

Stanford got herself a spot in Monday's 18-hole playoff with a spectacular birdie from 20 feet on the final hole, something the celebrated Annika Sorenstam lost after an attempt to reach the green in two on the par-5 18th left her with a disappointing bogey instead.

The battle for the $560,000 top prize from the $3.1-million pot is going overtime with Stanford battling former roommate Hilary Lunke, a blonde eyeing no less than a Cinderella story after going through two qualifying stages just to get to the main Open draw, and Kelly Robbins, on Monday.

Robbins is herself chasing history. If she wins, Robbins would complete the biggest ever comeback in the Open as she trailed by six strokes after Round 3.

Rosales, meanwhile, will be going home happy and content with another strong finish in the event where she had won the biggest paychecks of her career.

With a final round two-over-par 73 for a 292 total, Jenny won $56,500 (nearly P3 million). She was tied at that figure with Cristie Kerr, Lorena Ochoa, Patricia Leunier-Lebouc, Laura Diaz, Rachel Teske and Natalie Gulbis.

J-Ro climbed seven rungs up from a tie for 20th as the brutal conditions at the Witch Hollow course of the Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club yielded just three red numbers.

"This is the US Open and I know from the start that any score within par will give me a good result," said Rosales who placed seventh here last year and 12th in 2000.

"I'm just glad to end up in 13th place despite my putting problems over the weekend."

Rosales banged in a big money putt on the tough 17th—a difficult downhiller from 16 feet—for par.

The ploy was to get smart and conservative as the pins were hidden in the far deep corners of the lightning-fast greens.

Rosales picked up an early birdie from about 25 feet on the second hole and just when she thought everything would turn out fine came a flurry of three bogeys that started with a three-putt error on the killer sixth.

It was not until the 12th when Rosales made another birdie—an easy one from three feet after a daring 6-iron tee shot over a huge pond. She, however, gave it right back on the next hole due to a bad chip and a missed putt from four feet.

Rosales then parred the remaining holes with big saves on the 14th and 16th. On the 17th, she hooked her drive into the rough and faced that long par putt on a very sleek surface.

But Jenny stroked the ball well enough to get the right break and the par she badly wanted.

Jenny's stats showed her making 30 putts which was a remarkable improvement from Saturday's 38. She hit 10 greens and nine fairways.

The fat paycheck should be enough to bring the pro sponsored by Pagcor and the American Eye Center back to the Top 20 of the money list. The 13th place showing also guarantees Rosales an automatic slot for next year's Open even if she fails to make it to the Top 30 of the money list.

Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin wound up at 295 and picked up $28,354.

Sorenstam held up the final flight of Lunke and Stanford for almost 15 minutes as she sought a ruling on her ball that got stuck at the back of a Portalet and a giant scoreboard that obstructed her line of play.

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Cards nip Altas; Bombers up

By June Navarro

CHRISTIAN Guevarra sank two pressure-packed free throws with no time left in overtime to lift Mapua to a thrilling 61-59 win over University of Perpetual Help-Rizal last night in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Guevarra was fouled by Perpetual's Dom Javier as he drove for the basket as time expired and the 6-foot-3 Mapua skipper proved up to the task.

The Cardinals picked up their second win in three outings and tied the Altas and the Jose Rizal at the top.

"We didn't give up in defense despite our offensive lapses in the end," said Mapua coach Horacio Lim.

Rookie Khiel Misa, Robert Barnson and Javier rallied the Altas from a nine-point deficit in the final period, tying the count at 54-all on Marcel Cuenco's charities with 54 seconds remaining.

This score stood at the end of regulation play after Jeff Martin and Raymond Dula missed in the closing seconds for Mapua.

Earlier, Jose Rizal used its vaunted running attack to crush San Beda,104-75.

Marco Fajardo and Bochie Domangcas led the Bombers' unforgiving assault in the second period as JRU pulled away for good en route to a second straight victory in three games.

Fajardo topscored with 20 points for the Bombers, who took a 54-39 lead at the half and padded this to 77-57 after three quarters.

Later in the night, Mapua stopped University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, 61-59 for its second win in three games, same slate of its victim.

The Lions took their second consecutive defeat after winning over Philippine Christian University in their opening game.

As in the loss to Letran last week, San Beda coach Jonathan Reyes found no answer to the full-court pressure applied by Jose Rizal, which complemented its running game with sharp three-point shooting.

"Again, our fastbreak plays won it for us. But as we go along, I hope we can improve our defense more," said JRU coach Boy De Vera in Pilipino.

The Bombers forced the Lions to commit 24 turnovers and scored 23 points from the miscues. They were almost flawless from the three-point area with Winsjohn Te hitting four triples and Edward Attunaga and Fajardo draining two each.

Scores:

JRU 104—Fajardo 20, Te 14, Attunaga 12, Coyukang 10, De Vera 10, Domangcas 8, Borboran 8, Santos 7, Nicolas 6, Lindaya 5, Jorge 4, Ngo 0, Paule 0, Magtahao 0, Serios 0.

SBC 75—Paterno 21, Cordero 14, Bughao 12, Weber 9, Hudencial 6, Casino 4, Ong 3, Bombeo 2, Baldivia 2, Cruz 2, Padilla 0, Antonio 0, Angeles 0, Apepe 0.

Quarters: 26-17, 54-39, 77-57, 104-75

Second Game

MAPUA 61—Martin 12, Cruz 10, Sumalinog 9, Dula 9, Guevarra 6, Malig 6, Veranga 5, Gonzales 2, Co 2, David 0, Salud 0.

UPHR 59—Barnson 16, Javier 15, Joe 8, Cuenco 7, Betin 4, Balboa 4, SanQuarterscores: 18-12, 31-22, 46-37, 53-53 (reg), 61-59 (OT)

SPORTSWATCH

Tac hits pistol target

TAC PADILLA

NATHANIEL "Tac" Padilla ruled the rapid fire pistol event in the ongoing Philippine shooting team eliminations at the PSC range in Fort Bonifacio. The veteran internationalist fired 574 points to pull away from brother Donald Padilla, who carded 562, and Arthur Cabinian, who tallied 543. "I'm slowly rounding into top form in my preparation for the (Vietnam) Southeast Asian Games," said Tac Padilla, general manager of Spring Cooking Oil. He had a series of 288 and 286 in the 8-, 6- and 4-second rounds. Carolino Gonzales and Therese Cantada shared the honors by topping the men's and women's air pistol competitions. Gonzales shot 670 point to beat brother Marcelo (666.7) and Gilbert Escobar (663.8) while Cantada carded 467.1 to finish ahead of Susan Aguado (460.2) and Luz Remedios Samaco (457.3). Mainstays of the "Gintong Pangarap" program initiated by Philippine National Shooting Association president Art Macapagal and the AFP-DND dominated the 50-meter free rifle prone event. Edwin Fernandez, Eddie Tomas, Dennis Hernandez, Eric Guiniling and Benny Cagurin bagged the top five individual places, while Tomas, Hernandez and Clifton Pineda emerged No. 1 in the team competition. Fernandez finished on top of the individual event with 587, followed by Tomas (583), Hernandez (583), Guiniling (581) and Cagurin (580).

Paragua leads Paris tilt

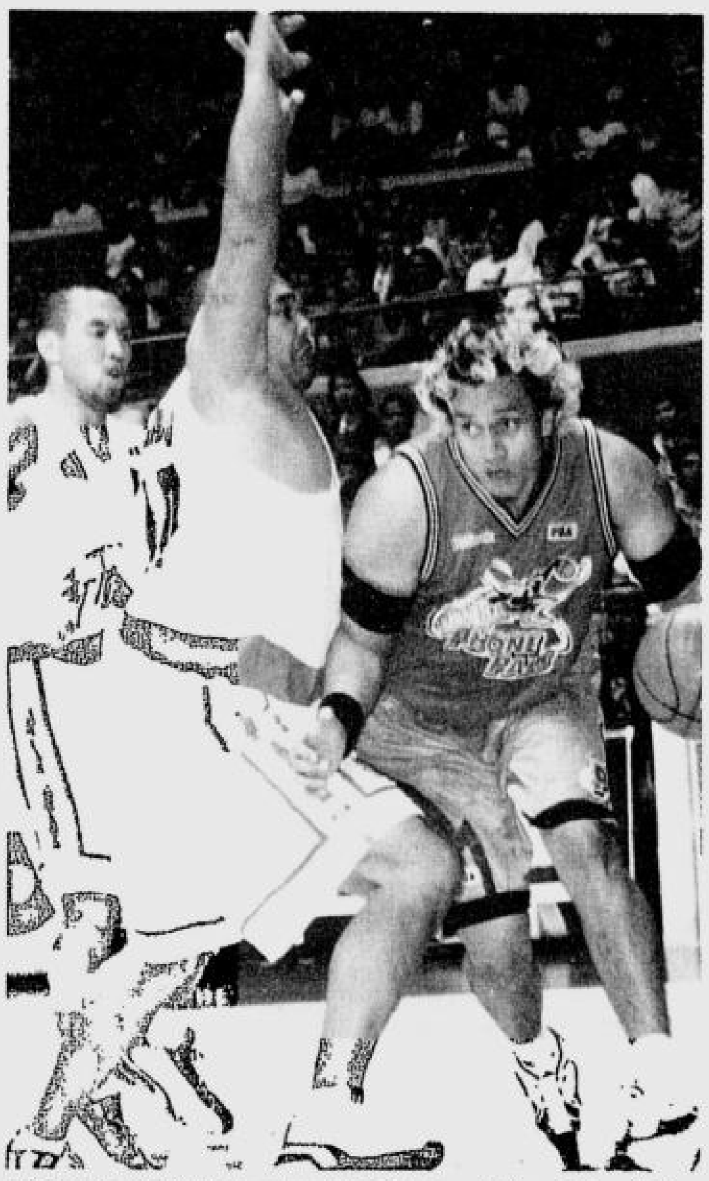
GM candidate MARK Paragua notched back-to-back wins over the weekend to gain the lead in the 2003 Championnat de Paris Open chess championship in Paris, France. The 19-year-old Paragua, who has an Elo rating of 2500, defeated Jorex of France (Elo 2259) via Sicilian Duel in the opening round Saturday night and followed it up with another victory over Abdulaziz Boncod (Elo 2314) of France Sunday night. "Actually GM *na ang tira ni* Mark, title *na lang ang kulang*," said Asian 3.2a zonal champ GM candidate Ronald Dableo, who intends to follow Paragua in Europe to pursue his own quest for the GM title. Newly installed International Master Joseph Sanchez, Paragua's trainer, bounced back from his first round match defeated Azad Harp (Elo 2229) of France.

Lex Talionis golfest

"TALIONS Cup 2003," the annual invitational golf tournament of Lex Talionis Fraternitas Inc., will be held July 11 at the Villamor Golf Club. Registration and tee-off will start at 11 a.m. Elegant trophies and valuable raffle prizes, including a round-trip ticket to the United States, colored TV, refrigerators and home appliances, and golf paraphernalia, wil be at stake in the third edition of the tournament. This year's overall winner will be inscribed in the 27-foot perpetual trophy crafted by Suarez and Sons. The perpetual trophy was donated by Trade Secretary Mar Roxas as one of the major sponsors together with Sen. Manuel Villar. Sairitsu International Trading Corp., and Mauri Pulhin. The hole sponsors are Globe Telecom, Vive Mayor Loui Bustamante of Las Piñas, Kho Bustos Malcontento & Argosino Law Offices, SBC Law Golf Club, Commissioner Arthel Caronongan, lawyers Joel Ferrer, Danny Yang, Larry Valdez, Nick Acosta, Julius Hidalgo, Albert Villaseca, Manny Alcantara, Ceasar Jimenea and Batch 2001.

Battle lines re-drawn in All Filipino playoffs

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is greeted by former mayor Raymundo of Pasig (left) and PBA Commisioner Noli Eala upon her arrival at the Araneta Coliseum Sunday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ



ASI Taulava (right) tries to get past Cris Bolado and Jeffrey Cariaso (left) in Sunday's Game 3 won by Talk N Text, 67-59. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

NOTHING's clear yet.

Talk N Text may be one game behind, but momentum is on its side. Coca-Cola's winning streak may have been broken, but its fighting spirit remains high.

After Game Three of the Samsung PBA All Filipino Cup title series Sunday, the battle lines have ben re-drawn, giving the remainder of the best-of-seven playoff a new look.

"I'm not really losing hope and our Game Three win only strengthened my faith," said coach Joel Banal after his Phone Pals repulsed the Tigers, 67-59, Sunday and avoided falling into a 0-3 hole no team in the PBA has ever survived.

But Banal wants his players to keep in mind that they're still 1-2 down in the series.

For the record, only two teams have recovered from 0-2 to win a best-of-seven PBA title playoff. Toyota was the first to do the feat versus San Miguel Beer in the 1982 Reinforced Conference and Purefoods duplicated it in last year's Governors Cup versus Alaska Milk.

"I hope the boys realize we're still down. We need to stay aggressive if we're to make it two in a row in Game Four," said Banal.

In the post-game interview Sunday, Banal and his counterpart, Chot Reyes of Coca-Cola, agreed on what decided the game.

"In contrast to Games One and Two, they (the Tigers) didn't make their outside shots. And with their misses, we got the rebound and we're able to run," said Banal.

"We couldn't shoot. You don't shoot, you don't rebound and you lose the game," said Reyes.

PBA stint a big test for all-amateur RP five

JUST how cohesive the Cebuana-Lhuillier RP men's team has become will be known when it competes in the Asian Invitationals starting July 27.

Trimmed to just 12, the Nationals are hoping to use the tournament, involving three foreign teams and six PBA squads, as a major test of their defense of the Southeast Asian Games basketball crown in Vietnam in December.

Recommended by head coach Aric del Rosario to the Basketball Association of the Philippines as members of the team are 6-foot-6 Marc Pingris, Al Magpayo (6-5), Rich Alvarez (6-4), Alwin Espiritu (6-5), Ranidel de Ocampo (6-5), Willy Wilson (6-3), James Yap (6-3), Emerson Oreta (6-3), Wesley Gonzales (6-4), Peter June Simon (6-0), Paul Artadi (6-0) and Dennis Madrid (5-10).

"This is quite an impressive lineup," said BAP secretary general Graham Lim.

Jean Henril Lhuillier, executive vice president of the sponsoring Cebuana Lhuillier and the designated team manager, also expressed satisfaction with the team's composition.

"They have strong, tall men and good, quick shooters," said Lhuillier.

Lim thanked the PBA and its commissioner, Noli Eala, for allowing the participation of the national team in the Invitationals.

The Nationals will see action against Yonsei University of Korea, Yugoslavia's junior national team, Jilin Yiqi, a commercial team from China; and PBA teams Red Bull, San Miguel, Talk N' Text, FedEx and Coca-Cola as well as the topnotcher in the ongoing Mabuhay Cup.

Roy Luarca

Eric's salute to the flag

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ERIC Buhain has stepped back.

Cito Dayrit won?

In a way, yes, Cito won. He had batted for Eric to put up an undivided attention for the country's mission in Vietnam. Cito got it. But not after really pummeling Eric with shots that were so terribly telling even Delilah's Samson could not have possibly weathered them himself.

You talk of national interest, you win hearts. Even of presidents.

You talk of commitments, you lose grip of reality. Since when is gentleman's agreement followed to the letter here?

You might even incur presidential ire.

You might blow away "pogi" points for "da madama."

Seemingly, Ate Glo sees Iraq in Vietnam; victories abroad have become Pinoy meals more palatable than rice.

Who needs meals, er medals, won at the expense of fellow Filipinos? This is not Christian versus lion anymore of ancient Rome. Mismatch. This is nation versus nation. Leveling the playing field it is said. At least on paper.

The country's interest is best served when medal hunters receive first-class treatment. So, give way, my dear Mr'& Ms Potentials. Your time will come. For now, it's national pride more than barangay's side that is of utmost priority.

And so, it's pleasing time.

Move over ego. Enter Cito.

Eric scrapped his three babes—the Luzon Games, the Visayas Games and the Philippine National Championship. The millions of money intended for these, Eric would give them all to Cito.

Cito is the real boss in the country's stint in the December SEA Games in Vietnam. That's because Cito is the nation's Olympic chief. Eric is custodian of athletes' money, people's money if you will.

Who said the moneyman always wins in the end?

Cito, the non-moneyman, prevails this time because the times, they are a-changing.

Eric, unlike some of those he had succeeded, knows it when diplomacy comes knocking at the door. At 32 and the youngest ever PSC boss, he has exhibited the happy hints of thinking and acting beyond his age.

To the cerebral, age does not matter.

To the intelligentsia, prudence will always be the better part of valor.

To the anti-power mad, the lamb is mightier than the wolf.

Eric is the lamb and Cito the wolf? Maybe.

To Cito's credit, however, he himself has said he will also look for other sources to augment the contingent's financial needs. Cito may be belligerent at times but most of the time, he is a team man. Cito knows Eric's credit is good, but Cito needs cash. More cash as the P40 million or so initially pledged by Eric may not be enough to fund the 482 or so athletes already picked for Vietnam.

The good thing about all this is that Cito and Eric are now talking. Communication has always been the mother of unity.

Applause?

You bet they both deserve it.

Even as Eric, in the eyes of the public, surrendered and Cito walked away triumphant from the skirmish, they both emerged winners.

No, I won't call Eric's surrender "one step backward, two steps forward." What he did was the first step to a journey of a thousand miles. A journey worth embarking on since its final destination is national unity not only when we arrive in Vietnam but for Philippine sports as well.

Anything lesser than that is hearsay.

Eric may have surrendered but in so doing, he did it not because he bowed to Cito but to the will, if not the interest, of the country's colors. If he made a sacrifice at all, it is something that should make an indelible mark in his young career as a sports leader.

Further, if people say Eric caved in under Malacañang pressure, fine. What's so bloody wrong with heeding orders of the commander-in-chief?

Right or wrong, a subaltern must always obey the boss. If he/she can't, time to resign. As one saying goes, "When the kitchen gets too hot, get out."

In Eric's case, though, there is neither a wrong Palace decision nor a hot kitchen to speak of.

Only the call of the flapping flag.

Venezuelan kayoes Castañares

PHILIPPINE junior welterweight boxing champion Dindo Castañares was stopped in the second round of a scheduled 10-round bout by Venezuelan champ Richard Reina Saturday night at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

Reina caught and floored Castañares with a vicious right to the head for the first time, then went in for the kill and finished off the Cebuano 2:50 gone in the second stanza.

It was Castañares' second loss in a row, having been stopped in the eighth round in April by OPBF junior welter champ Masakazu Satake in a titular challenge. The latest debacle dipped his record to 12-2-1, 9 KOs. Reina improved to 11 wins, 10 KOs with no loss.

Salven Lagumbay

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Kobe charged with sexual assault

DENVER—Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant turned himself in to police and posted a $25,000 bond on a felony count of sexual assault, the Eagle County sheriff's office said Sunday.

The 24-year-old All-Star guard was released after turning himself in on Friday.

The sheriff's office said an arrest warrant was issued after deputies investigated a woman's claims Tuesday of sexual misconduct by Bryant. The incident happened the previous night in a hotel in the Edwards area of Eagle County, near Vail, the sheriff's office said in a statement.

After a series of interviews and a review of the physical evidence, investigators met with representatives for District Attorney Mark Hurlbert and concluded they had enough evidence for the felony sexual assault count.

Hurlbert said Sunday night he hadn't made a decision on whether to file charges and had not yet seen the arrest report.

"During the investigation, Bryant was cooperative with investigators and remains cooperative with authorities," the sheriff's office said.

Judge Russell Granger ordered the case sealed.

Attempts to reach Bryant for comment were not immediately successful.

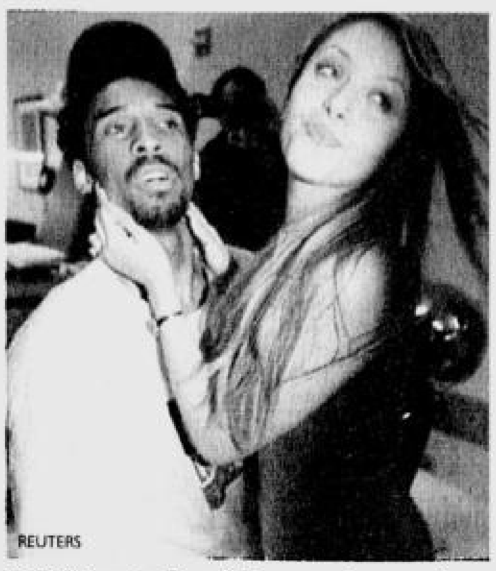
"These allegations are completely out of character of the Kobe Bryant we know," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said in a statement. "For the seven years he's been with us, he has been one of the finest young men we've known."

Bryant was the NBA's second-leading scorer last season, averaging a career-best 30 points a game. He scored 40 or more points in nine straight games in February and also had career-high averages of 6.9 rebounds and 5.9 assists while playing in each of the Lakers' 82 games.

Bryant underwent shoulder surgery on June 12 in New York. The Lakers expect he'll be ready by the start of training camp in October.

Bryant married Vanessa Laine in April 2001. Bryant and his parents recently mended a rift that developed when he became engaged to Laine when she was an 18-year-old high school student.

Vanessa, gave birth to their first child, Natalia Diamante Bryant, in January. *AP*


REUTERS

KOBE Bryant with wife Vanessa. A woman has accused the Laker of sexual assault in a hotel.

ROGER Federer collapses on center court after winning match point in the finals against Mark Philippousis. REUTERS

KING ROGER

Close scorelines belie ease with which Swiss hero Federer gained first grand slam crown

WIMBLEDON, England—Nothing Roger Federer faced in the Wimbledon final flustered him nearly as much as actually winning his first Grand Slam title.

Unfazed by Mark Philippoussis' power, Federer ripped returns on serves that made line judges, ball boys and spectators flinch. He laced passing shots by his 6-foot-4 (1.93) opponent, spun aces off lines and crafted crisp volleys.

Cool and collected throughout his 7-6 (5), 6-2, 7-6 (3) victory over Philippoussis on Sunday, Federer let that smooth veneer crack after it was all over.

When a backhand return by Philippoussis slapped the net on match point, Federer dropped to his knees, arms aloft. Then he rose and, as he walked to his courtside chair, put his hands to his face.

He sat and began to sob, his chest heaving.

These were tears of joy, certainly, but also tears of relief.

"There was pressure from all sides–also from myself. I wanted to do better in Slams," Federer said. "I've always believed, but then in the end, when it happens, you don't think that it is possible. It's an absolute dream for me. I was always joking around when I was a boy: 'I'm going to win this.'"

Still only 21, yet already for years considered a "can't miss" future champion, Federer felt pressure to perform. His 1998 Wimbledon junior title inspired some to sing praise, and those notes grew into a full-blown chorus after he ended seven-time champion Pete Sampras' 31-match winning streak at the All England Club in 2001.

But until this fortnight, the fourth-seeded Federer never had made it past the quarterfinals at a Slam.

"You see the trophy, and it's so beautiful. Gold. You don't have golden trophies very often," he said later.

Indeed it is, thanks to an all-around performance that made Federer the first Swiss man to win a major title and the seventh male champion at the past seven Slams, one short of the Open era record. *AP*

MARTINA Navratilova and partner Leander Paes (above) hold their Mixed Doubles trophies. Japan's Ai Sugiyama is shown at right celebrating with Kim Clijsters after the pair's victory in the women's doubles. AP; REUTERS

Navratilova books 2 new records

WIMBLEDON, England—Martina Navratilova has added two new entries to Wimbledon's record book.

By taking her 20th title on Sunday, she tied Billie Jean King for the most titles at Wimbledon.

And at 46, she's the oldest to win a Wimbledon title.

She accomplished both when she teamed up with Leander Paes of India on Sunday to win the mixed doubles title, defeating Andy Ram of Israel and Anastassia Rodionova of Russia 6-3, 6-3.

King has six singles titles, 10 in doubles and four in mixed. Navratilova has nine singles titles, seven in doubles and four in mixed.

THE FIRST Gentleman plays against Mark Paragua. Looking on are RP chess team members and officials.

Arroyo backs chess players

PHILIPPINE chess got a big shot in the arm recently when the First Gentleman Foundation adopted it as a major beneficiary.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Mat Defensor have signed a memorandum of agreement making the FG Foundation the godfather of chess–from the training of its top ten players to the staging of tournaments and seminars.

Mr. Arroyo said he has earmarked chess as one of the beneficiary sports of his "Medalyang Ginto, May Laban Tayo" program which aims to aid and train promising Filipino athletes in non-traditional events.

Defensor said the First Gentleman's pledge of support comes as "manna from heaven." Also present during the signing were NCFP secretary general Sammy Estimo, project consultant Rod Nepomuceno, GMs Eugene Torre, Bong Villamayor and Joey Antonio and IMs Ronald Dableo and Mark Paragua.

Ralf leads 1-2 Williams finish anew

MAGNY COURS, France—Ralf Schumacher led from start to finish to capture the French Grand Prix on Sunday, his second victory in a week and another 1-2 finish for Williams-BMW.

It was the first time this season that a driver led from start to finish without losing the lead, even during pit stops. Juan Pablo Montoya was second, 13.8 seconds behind his teammate.

RALF Schumacher

Michael Schumacher of Ferrari took third after languishing in fifth most of the race. He was helped when both McLaren cars ahead of him had problems. Kimi Raikkonen ended fourth and David Coulthard fifth.

It was the sixth career victory and second this season for Ralf Schumacher.

"I still don't believe it—two wins in a row and finally from the pole," he said.

In the season standings, Michael Schumacher still has the lead over Raikkonen, 64-56. Ralf now has 53 points. AP

GERMAN Olaf Pollack of Team Gerolsteiner carries his bike after a fall before the finish line. Inset, Pettachi rules the first stage. AFP

Petacchi outshines sprint stars after massive crash

MEAUX, France—Italy's Alessandro Petacchi claimed his maiden Tour de France victory after a dramatic first stage from the outskirts of Paris to here on Sunday.

Fresh from winning six stages on the Giro, Petacchi held off sprint stars Aussie Robbie McEwen and Germany's Erik Zabel after a mass crash involving 20 riders just prior to the finish of the 168km ride.

Petacchi's taming of two off the biggest names from the often dangerous world of sprinting—reigning green jersey champion McEwen and six-time points winner Zabel—was a sign of possible things to come.

Australia's Bradley McGee of fdjeux.com retained the overall lead. Four-time winner Lance Armstrong avoided getting hurt in the crash and came in moments later. *AFP*

Pettitte shuts down Boston big hitters

NEW YORK—Andy Pettitte silenced baseball's top-hitting team and Curtis Pride homered in his Yankees debut, leading New York to a 7-1 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Sunday.

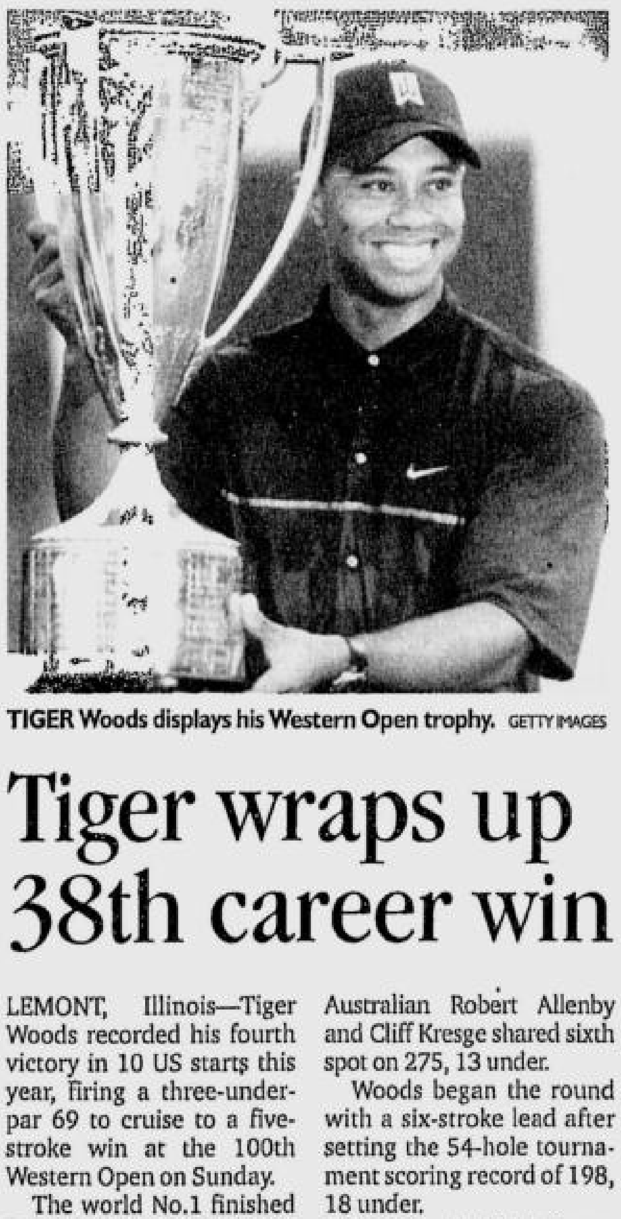
"He's pitched some big games for us," manager Joe Torre said. "I don't know if he's pitched any bigger regular-season games than this one because of the way we were beat up the last two days."

The Yankees snapped a three-game losing streak and moved three games ahead of second-place Boston in the American League.

Pettitte (10-6) struck out 10 batters in eight innings to win his fifth consecutive start. He retired 16 straight until Manny Ramirez singled with one out in the seventh.

In Florida, Jose Valentin and Joe Crede homered and drove in three runs each to lead Chicago over the Devil Rays, 11-3.

In Baltimore, Eric Hinske hit two homers as Toronto rallied to defeat Baltimore, 5-3. *AP*


TIGER Woods displays his Western Open trophy. GETTY IMAGES

Tiger wraps up 38th career win

LEMONT, Illinois—Tiger Woods recorded his fourth victory in 10 US starts this year, firing a three-under-par 69 to cruise to a five-stroke win at the 100th Western Open on Sunday.

The world No.1 finished 21-under on 267 to tie the 72-hole scoring record for the tournament created by Scott Hoch in 2001. US PGA champion Rich Beem (67) was second on 272.

US Open winner Jim Furyk (65), US Masters champion Mike Weir of Canada (68) and Jerry Kelly (68) were joint third on 274. Australian Robert Allenby and Cliff Kresge shared sixth spot on 275, 13 under.

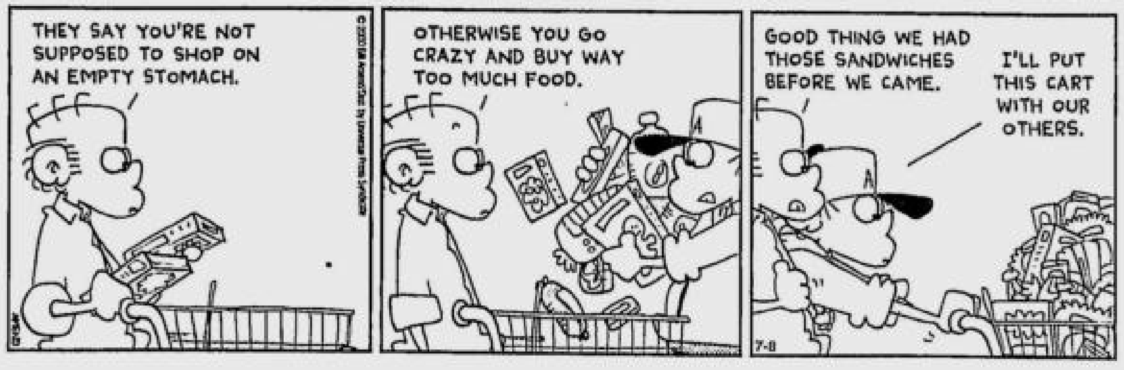
Woods began the round with a six-stroke lead after setting the 54-hole tournament scoring record of 198, 18 under.

He opened with birdies on the first two holes and picked up another shot at the 10th to surge 10 strokes clear.

Woods won for the 38th time on the PGA Tour and it was the third Western title of his career. It also marked the fifth consecutive year he has won at least four times in one season. *Reuters*

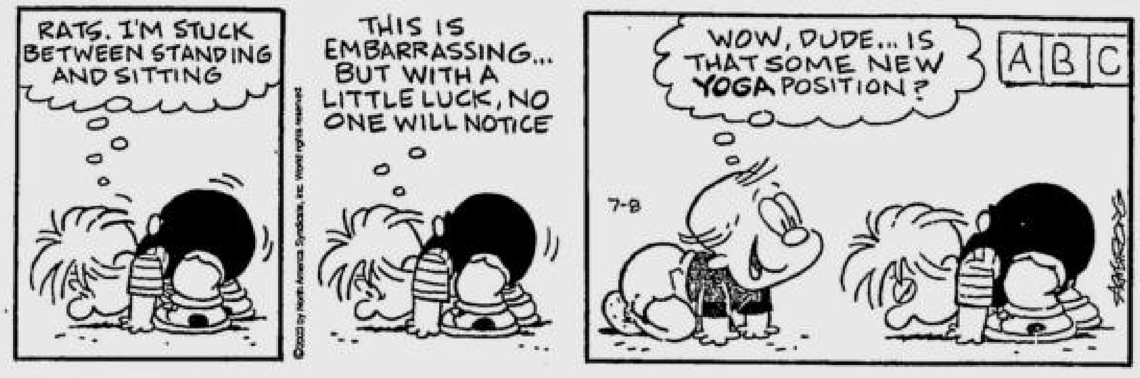
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


THEY SAY YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO SHOP ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.
OTHERWISE YOU GO CRAZY AND BUY WAY TOO MUCH FOOD.
GOOD THING WE HAD THOSE SANDWICHES BEFORE WE CAME.
I'LL PUT THIS CART WITH OUR OTHERS.
7-8

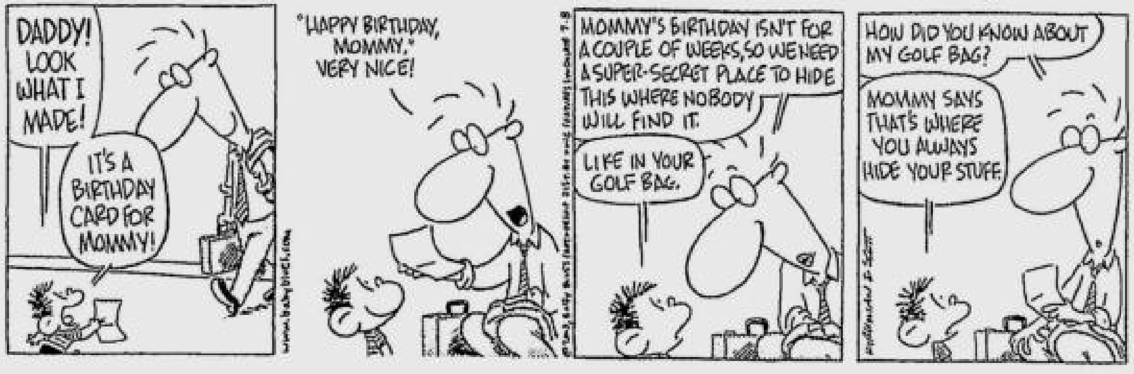
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


RATS. I'M STUCK BETWEEN STANDING AND SITTING
THIS IS EMBARRASSING... BUT WITH A LITTLE LUCK, NO ONE WILL NOTICE
WOW, DUDE... IS THAT SOME NEW YOGA POSITION?
A B C
7-8

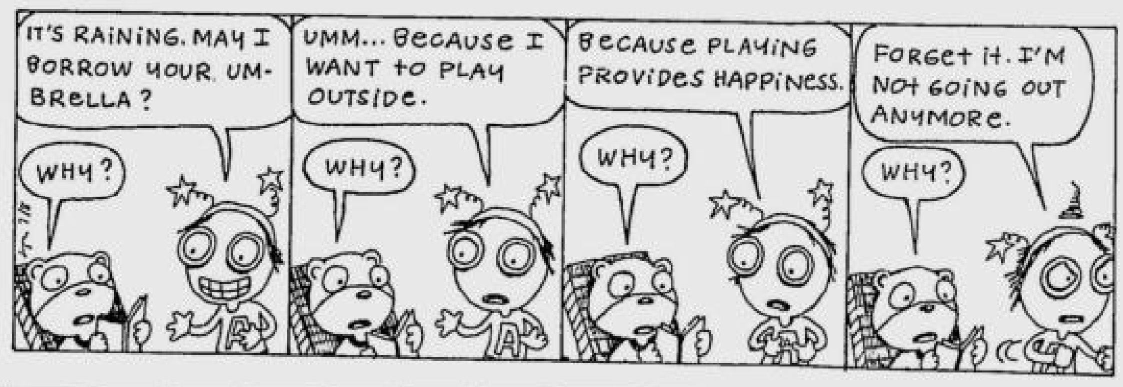
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DADDY! LOOK WHAT I MADE!
IT'S A BIRTHDAY CARD FOR MOMMY!
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOMMY." VERY NICE!
MOMMY'S BIRTHDAY ISN'T FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS, SO WE NEED A SUPER-SECRET PLACE TO HIDE THIS WHERE NOBODY WILL FIND IT.
LIFE IN YOUR GOLF BAG.
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT MY GOLF BAG?
MOMMY SAYS THAT'S WHERE YOU ALWAYS HIDE YOUR STUFF.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


IT'S RAINING. MAY I BORROW YOUR UMBRELLA?
WHY?
UMM... BECAUSE I WANT TO PLAY OUTSIDE.
WHY?
BECAUSE PLAYING PROVIDES HAPPINESS.
WHY?
FORGET IT. I'M NOT GOING OUT ANYMORE.
WHY?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have strong organizational skills. You are capable of creating structures, businesses and organizations. You work hard because you want results for your efforts. People view you as reliable—in fact, indispensable. Your spiritual life is important to you. The year ahead focuses on your closest relationships.
Birthdate of: Kevin Bacon, actor; Anjelica Huston, actress; Beck, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You want to do something that is of practical assistance to a family member today. You see now that for some people, actions speak louder than words. (And you're right.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Friendships or relationships that begin today will be characterized by loyalty and seriousness. They will be long-lived and reliable, even if they are more sober than flamboyant.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're not in the mood to throw your money around today. Although you're thinking about financial matters, you feel conservative and cautious. This is a good thing.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Four planets are in your sign now. The entire world is having a "Cancer hit." Today you feel unusually restrained in all your expressions with others. But you still care.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel cautious, but nevertheless, you also feel an obligation to help someone today. You are aware of the difficulties and sufferings of those who are less fortunate than you. And you will help if you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Someone older or wiser has some good advice for you today. Listen to what is said, because it might help you to reflect upon the state of your own life. One's expectations have a way of coming true.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Bosses and important people might recognize your contributions today. Their acknowledgment will not be flashy, but you know their admiration exists.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Travel plans might be curtailed because of financial reasons. Perhaps you need to rethink some situations and tackle them in a new way.

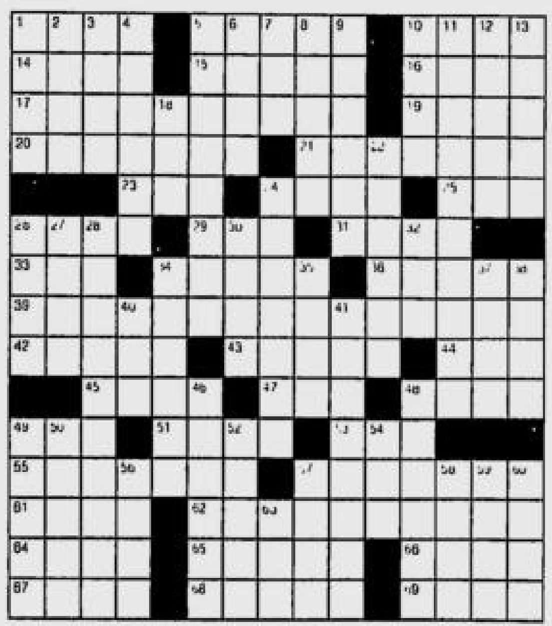
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Something from someone else is less than you expected. You might feel disappointed. Nevertheless, you know that whatever it is, at least you can count on it. (That's important.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with partners are strongly influenced by practical considerations today. You don't feel kootchy-kootchy. You want cooperation and assistance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You are totally goal-oriented today. You just want to get the job done. Someone older or more experienced at work is likely to help you. Just say "thank you."

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Party plans and matters connected with the entertainment world might be curtailed or held up today. Financial considerations could be the reason for this. After all, vacations and fun getaways cost money.

DAILY CROSSWORD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By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

7/8/03

ACROSS
1 Wire diameters
5 Coin-toss call
10 Periods
14 Jack-in-the-pulpit family
15 Sgt. Bilko
16 As to
17 Reduced
19 Render speechless
20 Wretchedly unclean
21 Processed as a group
23 Actor Scheider
24 Folk tale
25 Back-and-forth curve
26 Skirt edges
29 Amazement
31 Skater Heiden
33 Latin eggs
34 Cut corners
36 Actress Tessie
39 Reduced
42 In tune
43 Sub stations?
44 Pro vote
45 Zeno's home
47 Clearly embarrassed
48 Team of oxen
49 Tack on
51 __ Ice Shelf
53 The Common Mkt.
55 Bunches at the waist
57 Ornate wardrobe
61 Slaughter in Cooperstown
62 Reduced
64 Tidings
65 Characteristic odor
66 Exile isle
67 Tuscany river
68 Administered medicine
69 Shut noisily

DOWN
1 Word before media or transit
2 Land of the Tigris
3 Humdinger
4 Slanders
5 Japanese sauce
6 Dry as a bone
7 Corporate abbr.
8 Be at hand
9 Staid
10 Blade of a harrow
11 Reduced
12 Some test answers
13 Dispatches
18 Arafat's grp.
22 Chaotic struggle
24 Dues payers
26 Boxcar boarder
27 Writer Hunter
28 Reduced
30 Stiff breeze
32 Doctrine: suff.
34 Football great Gale
35 Visibly drained
37 "Only Time" singer
38 Egyptian sun god
40 Toothpaste choice
41 Alternate thoroughfare
46 Barbary sheep
48 Tea biscuits
49 Field of action
50 Luncheonette
52 Vice President Agnew
54 Outback bird
56 Exxon, once
57 Highest point
58 __ never happen!
59 Country diva McEntire
60 Wax-wrapped cheese
63 Help!

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	B	B	■	S	C	R	I	P	■	B	A	C	H
A	R	I	A	■	C	L	A	R	A	■	O	L	I	O
B	E	L	T	■	L	I	N	A	S	■	T	E	A	R
S	O	L	■	K	E	V	I	N	S	B	A	C	O	N
■	■	S	T	A	R	E	■	■	W	A	N	■	■	■
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G	L	E	N	■	C	R	I	E	R	■	U	S	E	R
E	A	S	T	■	E	M	O	R	Y	■	B	E	A	M

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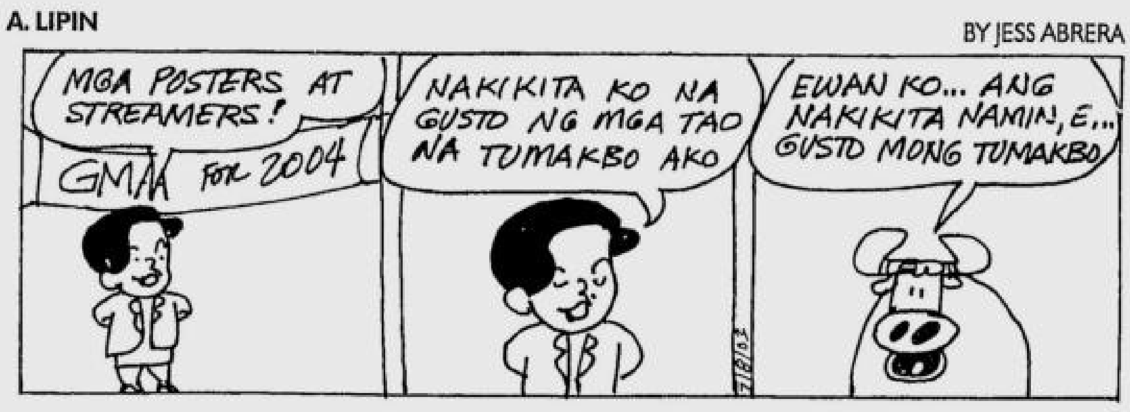
7/8/03

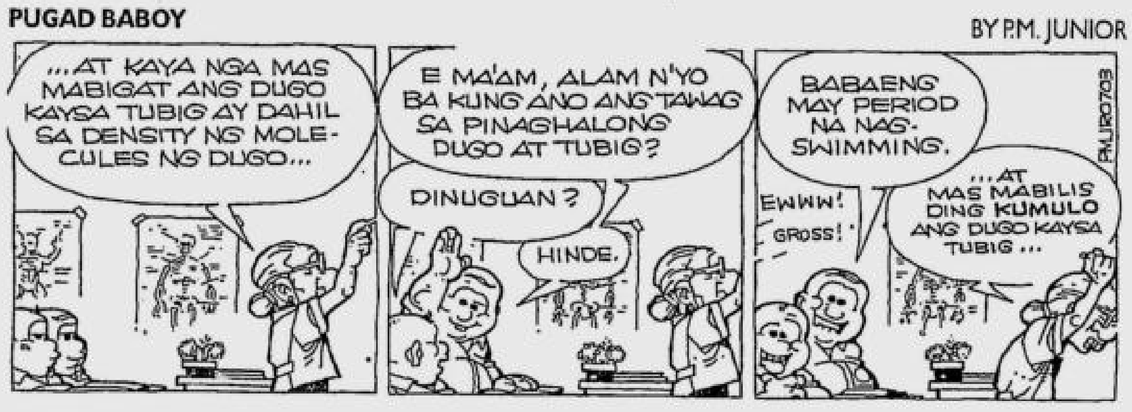
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MGA POSTERS AT STREAMERS!
GMA FOR 2004
NAKIKITA KO NA GUSTO NG MGA TAO NA TUMAKBO AKO
EWAN KO... ANG NAKIKITA NAMIN, E... GUSTO MONG TUMAKBO
7/8/03

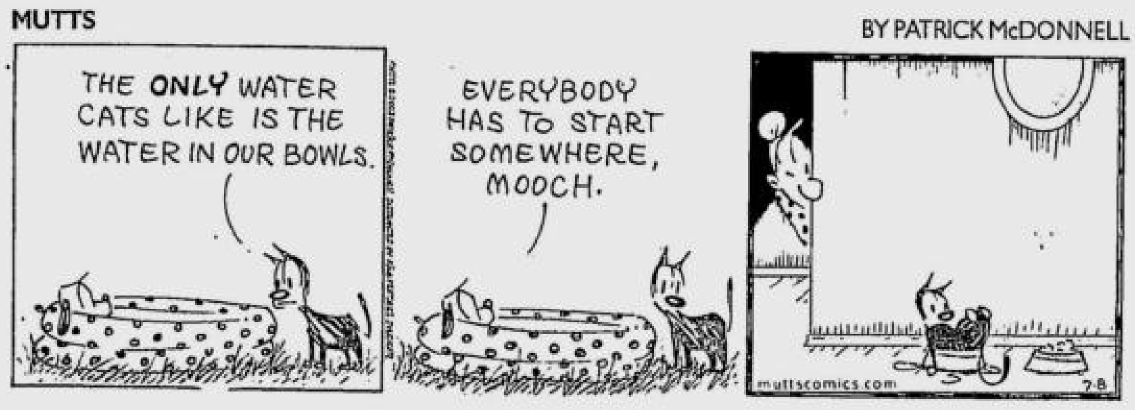
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


...AT KAYA NGA MAS MABIGAT ANG DUGO KAYSA TUBIG AY DAHIL SA DENSITY NG MOLECULES NG DUGO...
E MA'AM, ALAM N'YO BA KUNG ANO ANG TAWAG SA PINAGHALONG DUGO AT TUBIG?
DINUGUAN?
HINDE.
BABAENG MAY PERIOD NA NAG-SWIMMING.
EWWW!
GROSS!
...AT MAS MABILIS DING KUMULO ANG DUGO KAYSA TUBIG...
PMJR0703

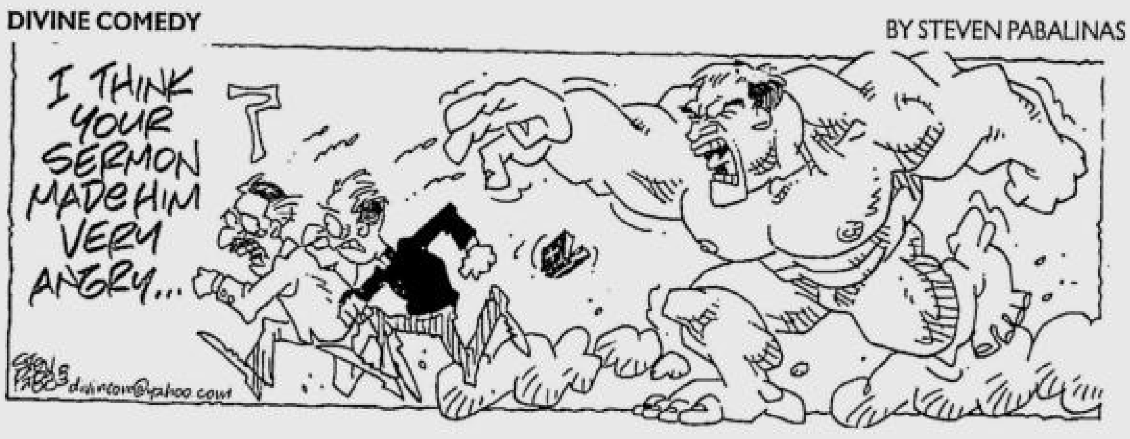
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE ONLY WATER CATS LIKE IS THE WATER IN OUR BOWLS.
EVERYBODY HAS TO START SOMEWHERE, MOOCH.
muttscomics.com
7-8

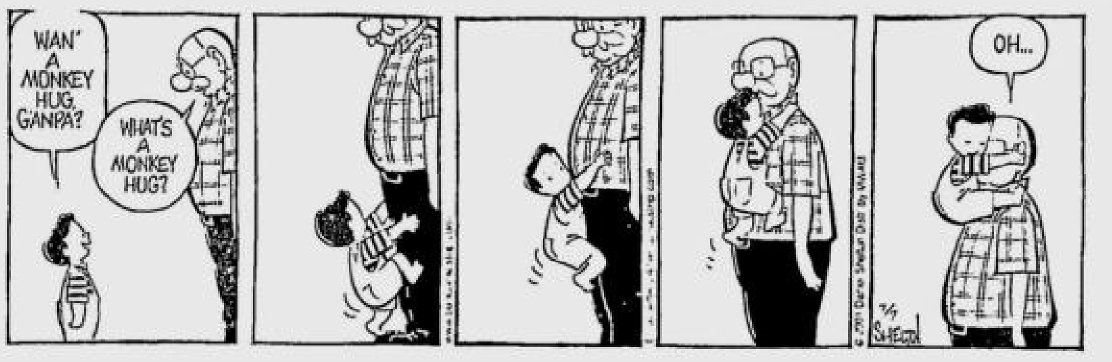
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I THINK YOUR SERMON MADE HIM VERY ANGRY...
divincom@yahoo.com

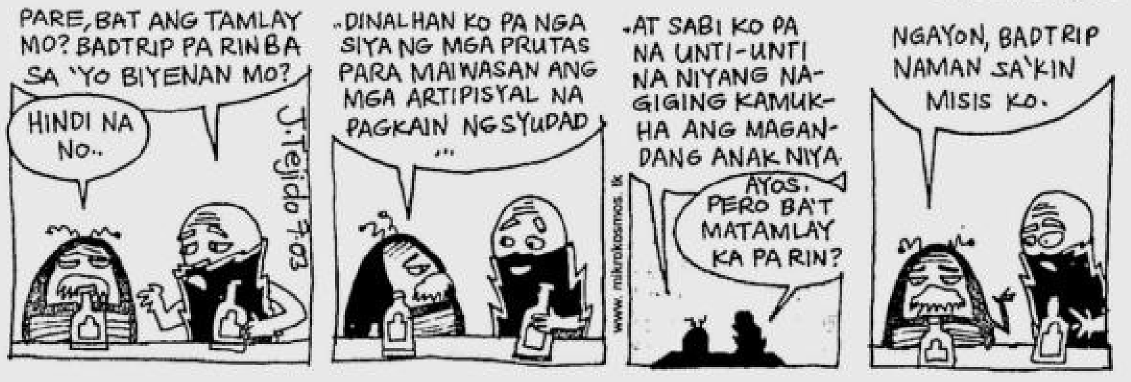
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAN' A MONKEY HUG, GANPA?
WHAT'S A MONKEY HUG?
OH...

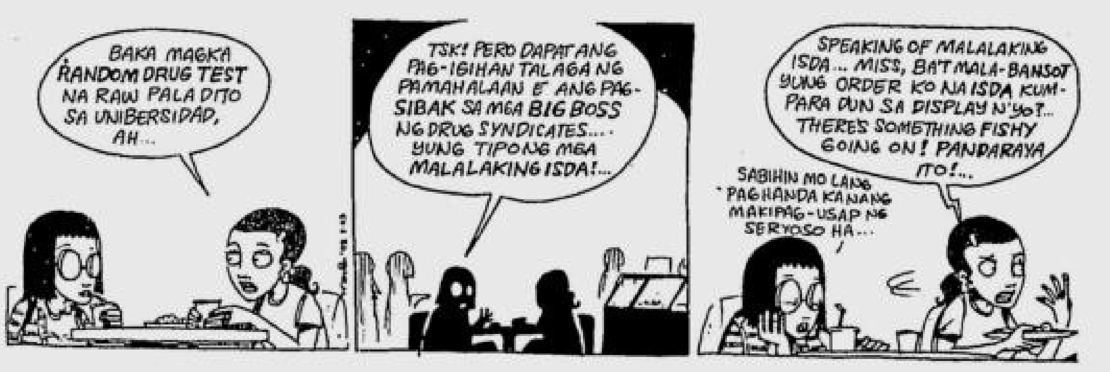
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PARE, BAT ANG TAMLAY MO? BADTRIP PA RIN BA SA 'YO BIYENAN MO?
HINDI NA NO..
J.Tejido 7.03
..DINALHAN KO PA NGA SIYA NG MGA PRUTAS PARA MAIWASAN ANG MGA ARTIPISYAL NA PAGKAIN NG SYUDAD...
www.mikrokosmos.tk
..AT SABI KO PA NA UNTI-UNTI NA NIYANG NAGIGING KAMUKHA ANG MAGANDANG ANAK NIYA.
AYOS. PERO BA'T MATAMLAY KA PA RIN?
NGAYON, BADTRIP NAMAN SA'KIN MISIS KO.

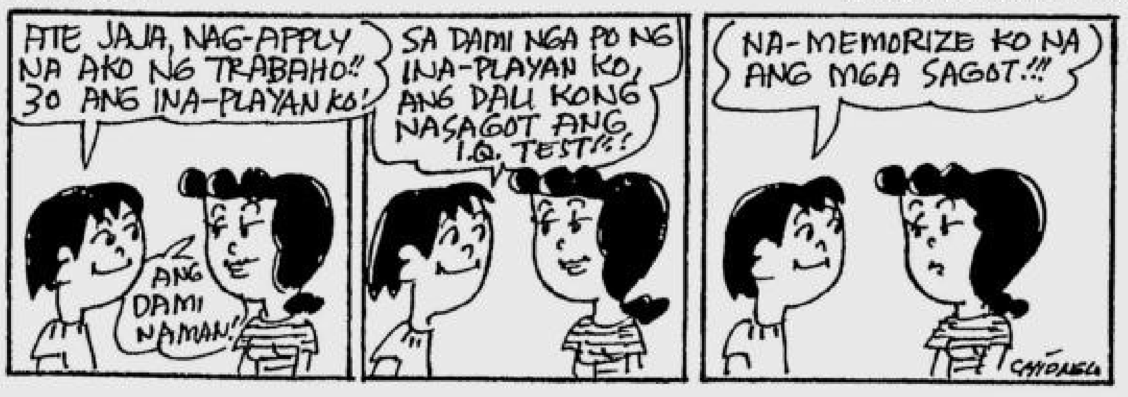
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


BAKA MAGKA RANDOM DRUG TEST NA RAW PALA DITO SA UNIBERSIDAD, AH...
TSK! PERO DAPAT ANG PAG-IGIHAN TALAGA NG PAMAHALAAN E ANG PAGSIBAK SA MGA BIG BOSS NG DRUG SYNDICATES.... YUNG TIPONG MGA MALALAKING ISDA!...
SPEAKING OF MALALAKING ISDA... MISS, BAT MALA-BANSOT YUNG ORDER KO NA ISDA KUMPARA DUN SA DISPLAY N'YO?... THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON! PANDARAYA ITO!...
SABIHIN MO LANG PAGHANDA KA NANG MAKIPAG-USAP NG SERYOSO HA...

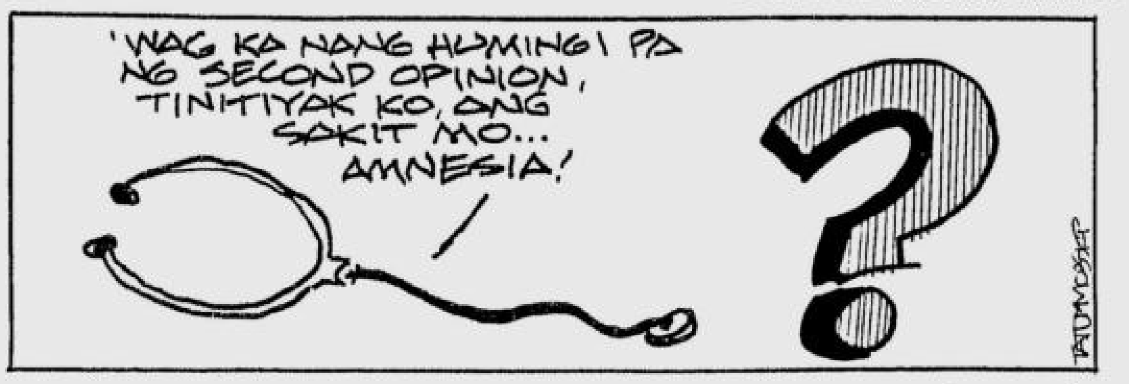
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ATE JAJA, NAG-APPLY NA AKO NG TRABAHO!! 30 ANG INA-PLAYAN KO!
ANG DAMI NAMAN!
SA DAMI NGA PO NG INA-PLAYAN KO, ANG DALI KONG NASAGOT ANG I.Q. TEST!!!
NA-MEMORIZE KO NA ANG MGA SAGOT.!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KA NANG HUMINGI PA NG SECOND OPINION, TINITIYAK KO, ANG SAKIT MO... AMNESIA!
TATUM/PAPU

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1

- CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
- 2 THE HUNTED
- MGA MUNTING TINIG / 28 DAYS LATER
- CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE

G4 GLORIETTA 4

- CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
- CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
- THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 12 20 2 40 5 00 7 20 9 40
- 4 28 DAYS LATER
- 5 PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
- 6 THE HUNTED
- 7 DUMB AND DUMBERER

GB1 GREENBELT 1

- ArtFilm 1 DANCER IN THE DARK 11.30, 2.00, 4.30, 7.30, 9.10
- 2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 11 30, 1 50, 4 10, 6 30, 9 00
- Onstage MEMORIES... ONSTAGE RICO J. PUNO July 8 - 9.00 pm

GB3 GREENBELT 3

- GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE HUNTED 12 25 2 35 4 45 6 55 9 05 11 15
- GUARANTEED SEATS THX CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 1 05 3 25 5 45 8 05 10 25
- GUARANTEED SEATS PUNCH DRUNK LOVE 12 30 2 30 4 30 6 30 8 30 10 30
- GUARANTEED SEATS CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 1 55 4 15 6 35 8 55 11 15
- GUARANTEED SEATS CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12 20 2 40 5 00 7 20 9 40 12 00

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER

- CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
- CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
- 3 THE HUNTED
- 4 PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
- MGA MUNTING TINIG / CHARLIE'S ANGELS

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to **2333**. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

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4 GOLD (DTS ES)	THE HULK
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	THE HUNTED
8	MUNTING TINIG
9	DUMB & DUMBERER
10	PIGLET THE MOVIE

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3	THE HULK

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(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	28 DAYS LATER
2	DUMB & DUMBERER
3	MUNTING TINIG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

METROPOLIS star

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(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2	MUNTING TINIG
3	28 DAYS LATER
4	THE HUNTED
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

M star

www.clickthecity.com.ph

(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	THE HULK
2	RING-O

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SANIB
2	THE HULK

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK
3	APOY SA MAGDAMAG
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
5	MUNTING TINIG
6	DUMB & DUMBERER
7 (DTS)	28 DAYS LATER
8 (SDDS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
9 (DOLBY)	THE HUNTED

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2	THE HULK
3	28 DAYS LATER
4 (SDDS)	THE HUNTED
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
7 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
8	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
9	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2 (SDDS)	THE HUNTED
3 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	DUMB & DUMBERER
3 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
5 (SDDS)	THE HULK

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
Lords	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
Jennet	

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1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
4	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
3	RESERVE
4	28 DAYS LATER
5	DUMB & DUMBERER

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	
2	

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	SANIB
2	THE HULK

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1	MUNTING TINIG
2	MGA BABAE SA VI ROOM
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DUMB AND DUMBERER
4 (SDDS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5 (DTS)	THE HUNTED
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
7	28 DAYS LATFR

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242 8400

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	TUMITIBOK TIBOK
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 (DTS)	THE HUNTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	THE HUNTED
2 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	SO CLOSE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	THE HULK
2 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 (DTS)	SO CLOSE
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SANIB
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2	DAYO
3 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
4	SO CLOSE

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	SO CLOSE
2 (DTS)	THE HULK
3	ANG HULING BIRHEN

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	SEX & ZEN
3 (DTS)	REAL CANCUN
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
3 (DTS)	THE REAL CANCUN
4	BIGAY HILIG
5	DAYO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	THE HUNTED
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	THE HUNTED
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	DAYO
2	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
3 (DTS)	ALAB NG LAHI
4	SO CLOSE

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	
2 (DTS)	

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
2	THE HULK
3	

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ANG HULING BIRHEN
2	DARKNESS FALLS
3	THE HULK
4	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	SOUL KEEPPER
3 (DTS ES)	THE HULK
4	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	WILLARD
3 (DOLBY)	CHARLIES ANGELS
4	THE HOURS

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4	DUMB & DUMBERER
5	THE HUNTED
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
8	ANG TANGING INA

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1	THE HUNTED
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	28 DAYS LATER
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	MGA MUNTING TINIG
7	DUMB & DUMBERER
8	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
9	HULK
10	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	MGA MUNTING TINIG
2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
3	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5	HULK
6	THE HUNTED
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8	28 DAYS LATER
9	DUMB & DUMBERER
10	ANG TANGING INA
11	TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
12	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	THE HUNTED
2	HULK
3	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	MGA MUNTING TINIG
8	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
9	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
10	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
11	ANG TANGING INA
12	DUMB & DUMBERER

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	HULK
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	THE HUNTED
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6	28 DAYS LATER
7	MGA MUNTING TINIG
8	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11	DANCER IN THE DARK
12	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9286452

1	THE HUNTED
2	HULK
3	MGA MUNTING TINIG
4	DUMB & DUMBERER
5	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	28 DAYS LATER
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM SOUTHMALL

8068888

1	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	DUMB & DUMBERER
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8	THE HUNTED
9	HULK
10	MGA MUNTING TINIG

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	THE HUNTED
3	THE REAL CANCUN
4	SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
5	OPERATION BALIKATAN
6	TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
7	HULK
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	BIGAY HILIG
2	CLOSED
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	OPERATION BALIKATAN
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	HULK
7	CLOSED
8	CONFESSIONS OF A ...

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	THE HUNTED
4	WISHMASTER 4
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
6	HULK

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	THE HUNTED
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	28 DAYS LATER

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	HULK
3	THE HUNTED
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	ADAPTATION
3	HULK
4	WILLARD
5	THE HUNTED
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	DUMB & DUMBERER
4	THE HUNTED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3	SANIB
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

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1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END
2	THE HUNTED 12:05 FS/12:35 MF/2:40/4:45/6:50/8:55/ 10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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3	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4	28 DAYS LATER
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
7	SMALL VOICES
8	PIGLETS THE MOVIE
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2	HULK
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4	28 DAYS LATER
5	THE HUNTED
6	PIGLTES
7	CHARLIES ANGELS 2

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1	DUMB & DUMBERER
2	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4	THE HUNTED
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
7	HULK
8	SMALL VOICES

Novaliches

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1	HULK
2	DUMB & DUMBERER
3	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
5	THE HUNTED
6	28 DAYS LATER
7	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
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1	MAG BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2	DUMB & DUMBERER
3	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4	28 DAYS LATER

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.

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(045)961-5270

1	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
2	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3	WISH MASTER
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
5	THE HUNTED
6	ADAPTATION

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2	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3	DUMB & DUMBERER
4	THE HUNTED
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	HULK

Sta. Rosa Laguna

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6	HULK

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Angelu de Leon denies rumor about Chavit Singson's son

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I CORNERED **Angelu de Leon** during our show "Celebrity Dat Com" regarding the real score between her and the son of **Chavit Singson**. The rumor has been lingering for quite some time now. She admitted that they do go out but said that's all there is to it. I am inclined to believe Angelu, because if he was really her boyfriend, then why didn't he escort her during the wedding of our show's writer, **Tofi Runas**, last Wednesday? Instead, Angelu came with a tall and dashing guy who is not from show biz and whose name starts with J.

Or does Angelu just want to keep her relationship with Chavit's son as discreet as possible to avoid intrigues? I can't blame her. She must have learned her lesson from her two previous relationships, with **Joko Diaz** and a Marcos kin, which were both scrutinized to an extreme.

I certainly hope Angelu's "Mr. Right" sweeps her off her feet soon enough. I know what it feels like since I'm a single mom, too, and I also had my share of failed relationships. Most guys tend to consider single mothers as fair game, which is quite unfair. The situation is compounded for women in the limelight. We have to make sure the guy falls for us because they like the person and not the personality.

TJ and love

Angelu and I constantly tease our co-host **TJ Manotoc** with GMA-7's talent **Izza Calzado**. They were seen sharing food during the Star Olympics. According to Angelu, TJ escorted Izza to the door when she went home from GMA's anniversary bash.

TJ claimed that Izza and he are just close because they happen to have the same manager. He also said he brought Izza to the door on her way out from the GMA party because Izza asked him to do so.

There's nothing wrong with that. The would-be (?) lovers attended the birthday party of well-loved writer **Jun Lalin** together. TJ and Izza look good together. Perhaps TJ is just waiting for the perfect timing to make his moves. Besides, he is swamped with work these days so he has no time for love. As TJ says, "My love life is black and white, unlike Angelu's and yours that are so colorful."

I shot back, "Don't worry. Since the three of us are hosting a weekly show together, in time, the love spell will rub off on you."

Whoever wins TJ's heart will definitely be envied by legions of girls. TJ is a certified "Crush ng Bayan" but he doesn't let it go to his head. Hopefully, love will go to his heart, though. All the success he is enjoying now will be more meaningful if he has somebody to share it with.

Besides, a full schedule doesn't go well with an empty heart. Work does not seem like work when you're inspired. Go for it, TJ!

Idols in Iloilo

Heard from my Iloilo connections that the members of the cast of "Click" were duped by a producer when they were invited to perform in that province.

The poor young stars were gracious enough to still sing one song for their adoring fans in the jampacked venue. Knowing how innately kindhearted and *malambing* Ilonggos are, I'm sure the producer will find a way to pay the matinee idols in due time. But he better settle things soon, lest the manager of the "Click" stars take legal action. That would not click well with the Ilonggo's genteel image.

'Flawless' vs 'Flawless'

My "twin funky sister," **Dr. Vicky Belo**, would rather not comment on her rift with **Rosanna Roces**, one of the first endorsers of Belo Medical Group for liposuction.

It's just a little *tampuhan* which is normal between close friends. I consider such "fights" a renewal of ties. If the foundation of your friendship is solid, no amount of argument can ruin it. When we get really close to a person, to the point of being able to finish each other's sentences, it's inevitable that some clashes would erupt from time to time. If your friendship does not go beyond pleasantries, then your bond is not deep enough.

In the case of Vicky and Osang, it's one friendship that Vicky truly values so she wants to save it. I've always known Vicky as a friend, who would go out of her way for you, so no doubt, she and Osang will patch things up soon. But it's something better dealt with in private. Let's just leave it to the two "flawless" women to fix the flaws in their friendship.

'Trabaho'

Catch **Pops Fernandez** and **AJ Eigenmann** in "Nuts Entertainment" on July 9. The topic is all about "*Trabaho*." It surely will be a riot.

Personal

If you want trendy but affordable outfits, check them out at Kolorete Salon at the Timog Arcade. Believe me, you would want to hoard the clothes.

Belated happy birthday to a friend I really miss—**Louie Heredia**. Even we don't to see each other much, you know that my heart remembers everything, Louie dear.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

Eye candy

From page A23

ishes.

All of this is eye candy in many different shapes and colors, meant to provide 90 minutes of exciting and wacky diversion, nothing less and nothing more. Measured by that yardstick, "Full Throttle" is just what the cinematic confectioner ordered, nothing less and more.

'World Report'

CNN's longest-running program, "World Report," has a simple mission: to provide viewers around the world with the opportunity to see other countries as their residents see themselves.

Hosted by **Octavia Nasr, Daljit Dhaliwal** and **Asieh Namdar**, "World Report" gives the world's broadcasters an opportunity to reach more than 160 million viewers. The program receives an average of 45 tapes a week.

To have pieces accepted and aired means a lot to the contributing companies and broadcast journalists. Many contributing reporters get promoted to senior positions within their stations.

"World Report" now airs Mondays at 4:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Tuesdays to Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 12:30 p.m., and Sundays at 6:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

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Set in rural America in 1964, an immigrant, single mother who works at a factory takes refuge in song & dance, while her world steadily loses light
"This is a film like no other this year, and for that alone you should see it."
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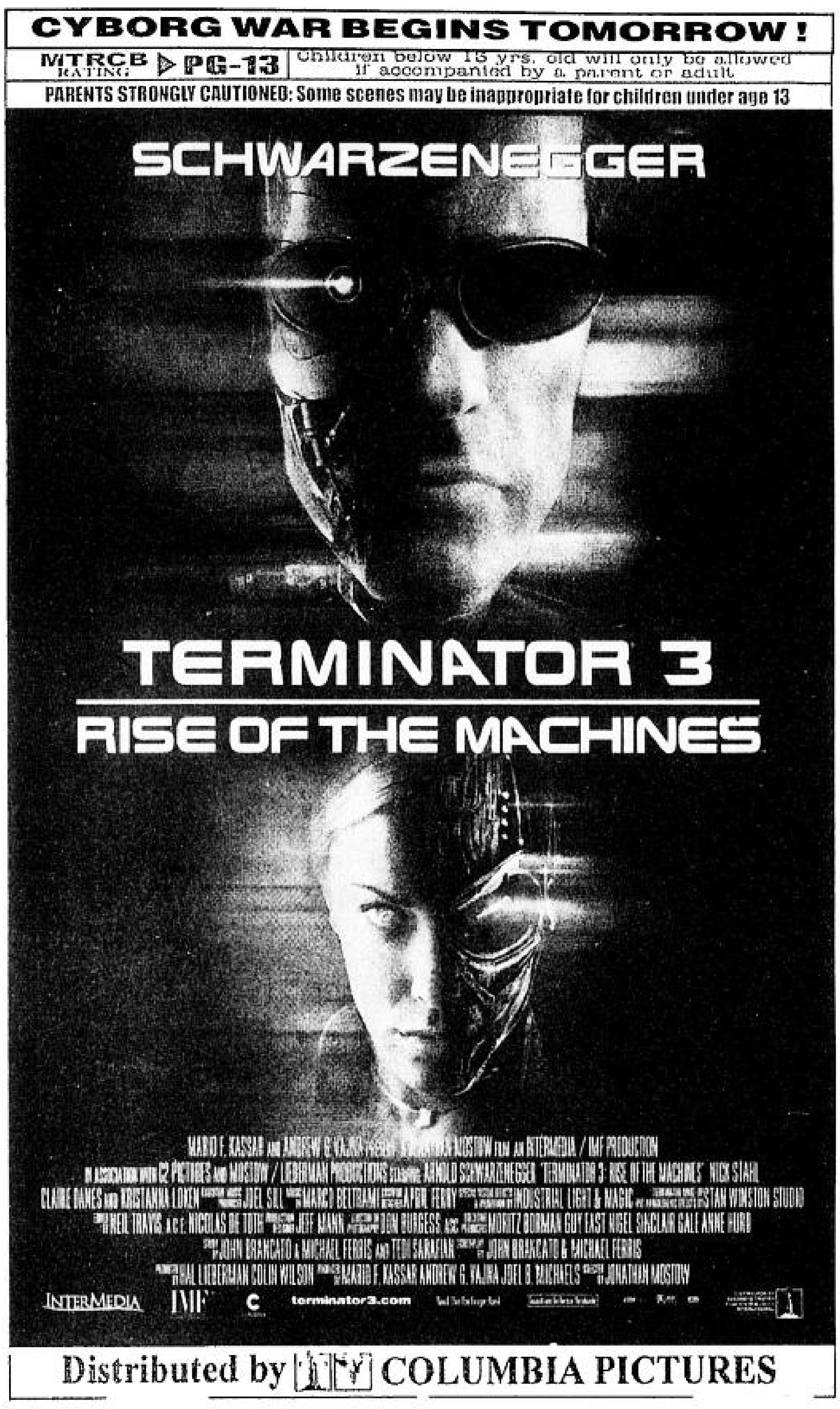
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Cinema 4 - 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1 - 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50
Cinema 3 (THX / GSC) - 11:40,2:10,4:40,7:10,9:40
Cinema 6 - 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1 (THX)-11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30, 10:40
Cinema 2 - 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
Cinema 3 - 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20

GREENBELT 1
ONSTAGE - 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:20

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1 (THX / GSC) -12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00
Cinema 2 (THX / GSC) - 1:00,3:25,5:50,8:15,10:40
Cinema 3 (GSC) - 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55, 11:20

Screening schedules are subject to change without prior notice.
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AYALA CINEMAS
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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

LT: The issue is between Mother Lily and me

No bad blood 'tween us, Lorna says of 'rift' with Dina

By Nini Valera

MOVIE producer Lily Monteverde was to blame over the issue of alleged role snatching between actresses Lorna Tolentino and Dina Bonnevie in "Mano Po 2."

"But I am not mad at her," said Lorna in Filipino during a break in the taping of her ABS-CBN telenovela "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay" at the Manila City Hall last Sunday. "She probably just wants the movie to earn. Unfortunately, it's at our expense.

"My friends have sent me text messages asking if it was a gimmick. So, most people are aware that these things could be gimmicks."

Lorna said Dina tried to convince her to do the movie no matter what role she would be playing.

"But that's beside the point," Lorna said. "The matter was between Mother and myself. So I called her up and told her she made me lose my cool. She just laughed–hard."

Lorna also quoted Mother Lily as saying she already had bad karma since the movie still did not have a script.

"I told her, I'll just wait for the script," Lorna said. "If they do something to the role of the second wife, I'm willing to do it. I just don't want the character to do nothing. I want the character to have meaning in the story."

Lorna also clarified that she had nothing against Dina, who she described as her "*kumare*."

"Professionally and personally, there's no bad blood between us," she stressed.

Dina had reportedly quipped about the issue, "Sorry, I happen to be hot now." Told of this, Lorna only shrugged her shoulders.

"What I care about is the work, my work," said Lorna. "I don't really care who's in, who's out, who's hot, who's not."

Lorna, 41, claimed that Mother Lily had originally offered her the role of the 2nd wife in "Mano Po 2," a role which required her to play a martyr.

"Two weeks before the press con, I had a meeting with Mother Lily, (producer) Manny Valera (producer), (production designer) Don Escudero, Manny Castaneda, *Direk* Eric Matti, Boots Plata, Ruel Bayani," Lorna related. "They did not give me the story treatment, but told me my role was that of the second wife who is the passive type. Anyway, I brainstormed with them so that something could be done to the role.

"I asked what the role of Kris (Aquino) was, and they told me it was the third wife, who is rebellious, off-beat. I said, I would have wanted to do that role."

MOTHER LILY to blame?

TOLENTINO. Second or third wife?

Lorna said she called up Mother Lily after the meeting and asked her if she could play the third wife. She said Mother Lily was non-committal then.

But a day before the press con, Lorna said, "(Mother Lily) called me and told me that I could have the role since Kris didn't want it." She said the producer even asked her who she wanted to co-star with her–Dina or Alice Dixson.

"I told her I didn't have problems with any of them," Lorna said. "It didn't matter who were playing which roles. I was more concerned with my role, that of the third wife."

But after the press conference for the movie about two weeks ago, and after Lorna had told the movie press that she would play the third wife, she learned that Dina, who arrived after the press con and was being interviewed, had said she would play the same role.

"Naturally, I lost my cool," said Lorna, who's not known for getting mad. "I became bitchy. I said, if they didn't want me so be it. I would just return the down payment I received."

In the case of the remake of Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Moral," whose original version in 1982 starred Lorna as the free-spirited Joey, Lorna said her losing the role again to Dina was simply a "miscommunication between Star Cinema and my manager (Lolit Solis)."

The role, she said, was "probably not meant for me."

Until "Mano Po 2," Lorna has not wanted to play a role this badly. But the movie would be her 90th film, she said, and she wanted her role to make inroads in her career.

"It's been a long time that I had something like Rosita Monteverde ('Maging Akin Ka Lamang') and so I wanted a memorable part for my 90th film," Lorna said.

She was talking about the ultimate movie bitch she played in Lino Brocka's "Maging Akin Ka Lamang," who would stop at nothing to get her man, played by Christopher de Leon, from his wife (Dina).

What probably makes Rosita Monteverde most memorable to the actress was the number of awards she won for it and that it was made a few years before Glen Close played a similar role in "Fatal Attraction."

But Lorna is not about to give up: "I just want to play characters that would matter to the audience."

Eye candy

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN "Full Throttle," the "Charlie's Angels" sequel, the action franchise's resident sexy sleuths have a new mission involving rings–no, not as jewelry, but as conduits of invaluable encrypted information on the identities of all of the people hiding under the FBI's Witness Protection Program.

It turns out that the information is worth millions to crime bosses who want to get back at the witnesses who threaten to expose and bring down their evil empires.

The heretofore top-secret files also reveal that the Angel played by **Drew Barrymore** once had another identity–and this revelation lays her wide open to vengeful attacks by the people she ran counter to in the distant past.

An unexpected nemesis who figures strongly in this sequel is the "fallen" Angel played by the comebacking **Demi Moore**. Now in her 40s, Moore is still a stunner, but her performance is strangely flat and limited –especially when compared to the wacky and exuberant portrayals turned in by Barrymore, **Lucy Liu** and **Cameron Diaz**.

It's the Angel's livewire performances that keep the movie viewable, since the plot offers little in terms of surprises and complications.

Another plus point is the over-the-top staging of some action scenes. For instance, the very first sequence has the Angels rescuing a US official by driving a truck over the side of a dam, then falling out of the vehicle in mid-air to grab hold of an unmanned helicopter, and flying off in it just a nano-second before it hits the ground.

Other visually-entertaining sequences include a hot motorcycle competition that keeps piling one "impossible" stunt on top of another, and the slam-bang finale. In addition, the angels put on a dizzying series of disguises, costumes and prosthetics that provide even more outrageous visual flour-

EYE/A22

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MUNTING TINIG
Ali 2	MGA BABAE SA VI ROOM
Ali 3	DUMB AND DUMBERER
Ali 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
Ali 5	THE HUNTED
Ali 6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
Ali 7	28 DAYS LATER

ARANETA COLISEUM

JULY 11	PBA GAMES
JULY 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES
JULY 13	UAAP GAMES
JULY 25 & 26	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 01	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
B	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
CINEMA-2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
CINEMA-3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-8	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	28 DAYS LATER
CINEMA-12	DUMB AND DUMBERER
CINEMA-14	THE HUNTED
CINEMA-15	MUNTING TINIG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	HOW TO A GUY IN 10 DAYS
CINEMA 2	OPERATION BALIKATAN
CINEMA 3	ALAB NG LAHI
CINEMA 4	SO CLOSE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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THE HUNTED R13 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10	MUNTING TINIG - GP 12:15, 2:45, 28 DAYS LATER - R18 5:15, 7:40,10:00	CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE PG13 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

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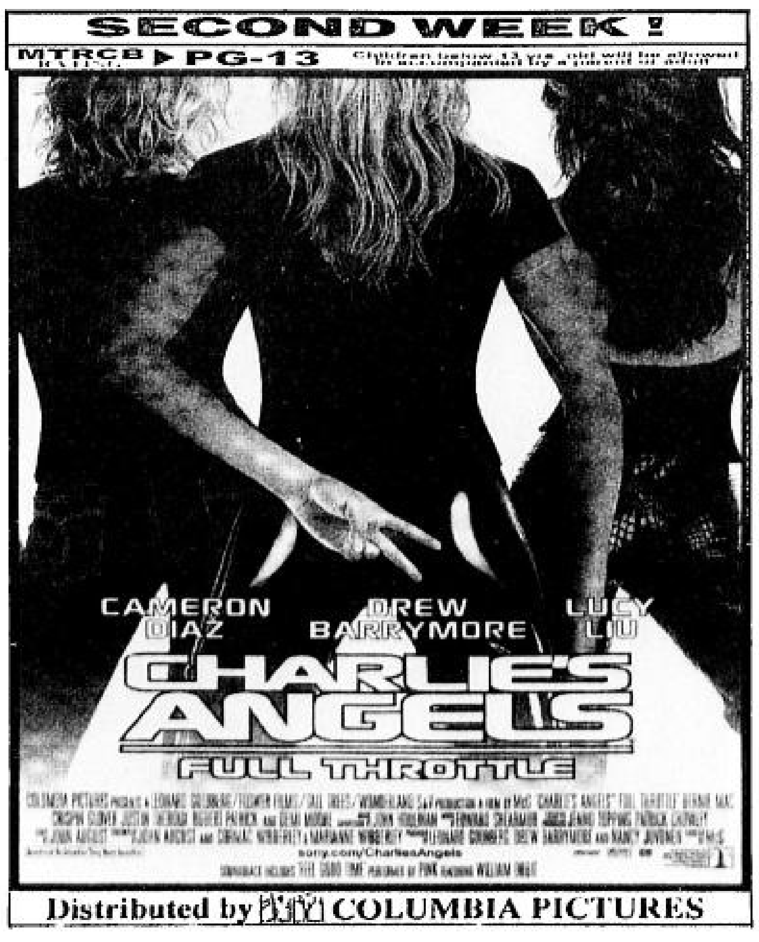

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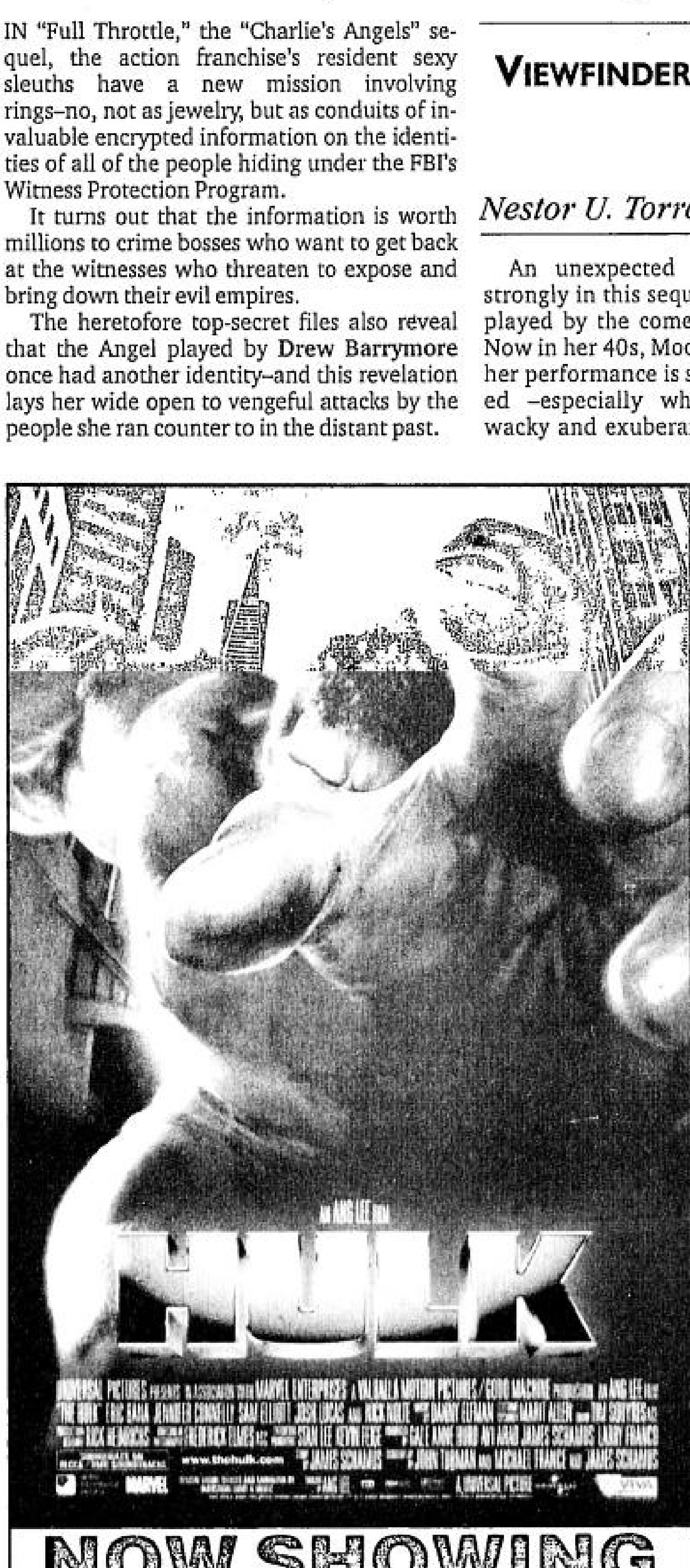

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Treasury bill rates continue to slide

By Clarissa S. Batino

TREASURY bill yields fell across the board yesterday, pulling the benchmark 91-day rate down by 16.8 basis points to 5.33 percent.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the benchmark rate should fall to 5 percent in the coming months as the government has been able to maintain a stable cash position due to improving fiscal numbers.

The 182-day rate shed 3.7 basis points to 6.356 percent while the 364-day yield slid by 1.9 basis points to 6.814 percent.

Banks use the 91-day rate as basis in pricing their loans although declining domestic interest rates have yet to fully benefit the economy since excess funds continued to flock to government securities and not to finance businesses.

As of yesterday, Edeza said the government's cash position stood at about P70 billion, down from P80 billion the previous week after the state sold P74.3 billion worth of retail treasury bonds.

A strong cash position sends a signal to the market that interest rates should further decline since the government would not pay a high rate for its future borrowings.

Next month, the government's cash position should revert to its normal size of P30 to P40 billion. He explained that it was inefficient for the government to hold huge amounts of idle cash.

Excess cash is what prompted the government to cut its remaining foreign financing requirement this year by $500 million from $900 million and to reduce domestic borrowings this month by P15 billion. A cut in borrowings should also ease pressure on local interest rates.

With the huge proceeds from the retail bonds, the treasurer said the government could afford to cut local borrowings by another P6 billion or offshore financing by another $100 million.

"We could also use the P6-billion flexibility to reject unreasonable bids during auctions as we had just done," he said.

"The market should know its limitations," he said. "The government has a huge cash position after the retail bonds and we could easily reject the bids if we don't like the rates we are given."

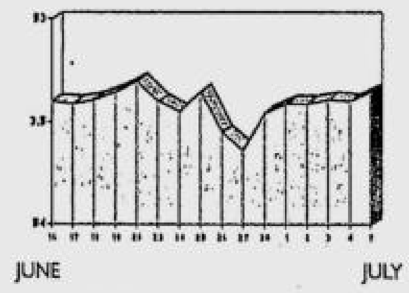
The government only raised P5.66 billion from yesterday's sale of treasuries after bids for the 91-day papers stood at only P2.8 billion against the auction size of P3 billion. The Treasury accepted P2.59 billion worth of 91-day treasuries, P1.58 billion worth of 182-day, and P1.5 billion worth of 364-day bills.

The Treasury has cancelled three bond auctions for this month, each of which would have raised P3 billion. The Treasury said it would also reduce its treasury bills offering for this week and on July 21 to P6.5 billion from P9.5 billion.

The Treasury plans to sell only P3 billion of 91-day T-bills, P2 billion of 182-day papers and P1.5 billion of 364-day bills.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 53.35 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 7, 2003

¥ 118.08 = $ 1

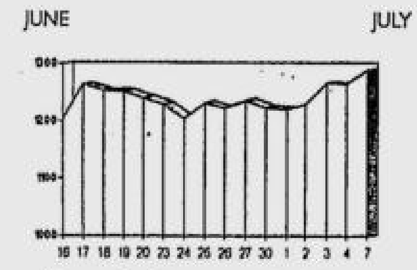
As of 5 p.m., July 7, 2003

GOLD: **$351.00-351.50**

per ounce Hong Kong, July 7, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks hit 13-month high

LOCAL stocks surged to a 13-month high yesterday on the back of a continued slowdown in interest rates as well as a rosy outlook on the economy and corporate earnings for the rest of the year.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained by another 24.75 points or 1.96 percent to close at 1,289.02, fueled by foreign buying of blue chips. It was the local bourse's best performance since June 6, 2002, when it closed at 1,302.68.

Monique Lecaros, head of institutional sales at SB Equities, said a lot of investors were shifting to equities because the declining local interest rates were making fixed-income instruments less attractive.

"A lot of issues have reached overbought levels, but the momentum is still very strong. And it's not just technicals driving the shares up but improving fundamentals," Lecaros said.

"Because of low interest rates, equities are more promising. Money will be channeled to equities, especially since the outlook on corporate earnings for the second half is positive," Lecaros said.

During yesterday's treasury bills auction, the rates fell across all maturities with the benchmark 91-day yield falling to 5.33 percent from the previous week's 5.498 percent. This followed a surprise 25-basis point reduction in the policy rates of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last week.

Lecaros projected that the market could easily breeze through 1,300 and even hit the 1,350 resistance this week.

"The market is in a recuperative phase," she said. "Foreign funds have been in a net buying position since April."

Rommel Macapagal, a dealer at Westlink Global Equities, said the market continued to build a base instead of correcting after weeks of strong performance.

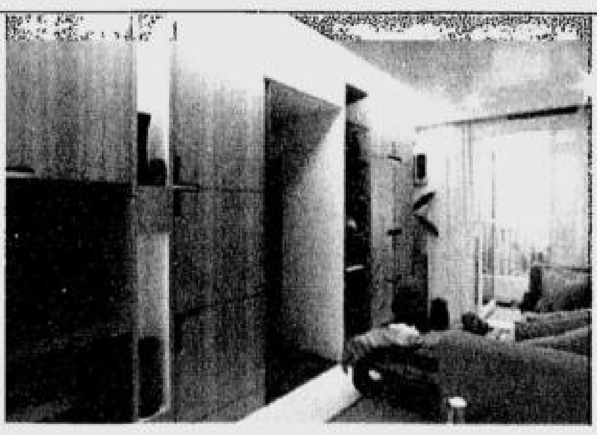
STOCKS/ B4

INTEREST RATES

July 07, 2003-
MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 7-Jul-03	MART1 4-Jul-03
1 Month	6.2429	6.3107
3 Months	6.4154	6.4673
6 Months	7.25	7.2232
1 Year	7.9567	7.9533
2 Years	8.75	8.7467
3 Years	9.645	9.665
4 Years	10.0333	10.0333
5 Years	10.295	10.2633
7 Years	11.135	11.1417
10 Years	11.47	11.45
20 Years	12.0233	12.0217
25 Years	12.3783	12.4

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG



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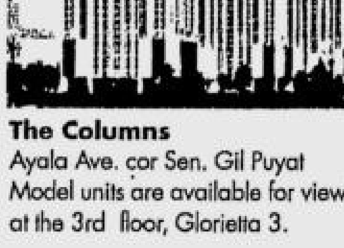

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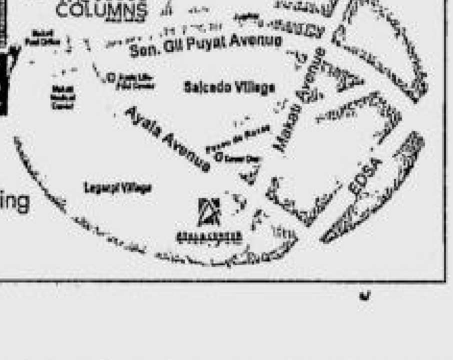

Gov't finalizing guidelines for Mile Long privatization

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GOVERNMENT expects to come up by the end of this month with guidelines that will govern the sale of pieces of property in the Mile Long development area in Makati to raise money to cover the budget deficit.

In an interview, Finance Undersecretary for privatization Eric Recto said the Department of Finance had already identified pieces of land in the area totaling 120,000 sq.m. that could be sold.

He said the final valuation of these pieces of land should be available soon.

Sources, however, said the sale of the properties identified could generate around P2.4 billion for the government.

Recto disclosed that the government had so far raised only P300 million from the privatization of government-owned assets. The amount was way below the P1-billion target for this year.

Recto also said that the government had again failed to find bidders for its property along Kalayaan Ave. in Makati, the former site of the International School.

However, he said that several groups were interested in submitting unsolicited proposals.

The government is projecting a budget deficit of P202 billion this year.

THE GOVERNMENT expects the sale of certain pieces of property at the Mile Long development area to finally push through with the privatization plan already cleared by the Department of Justice.

NAPOCOR-MERALCO DEAL

Power rate cut seen

MANILA Electric Co. will be able to cut its rates by an average of 12 centavos per kilowatt hour (kWh) once the independent power producers (IPPs) supplying energy to the company are able to operate at higher levels.

The compromise settlement between National Power Corp. (Napocor) and Meralco, which will be filed with the Energy Regulatory Commission for approval, allows the Lopez-controlled utilityl to source its supply from its IPPs—First Gas and Quezon Power. Napocor, for its part, will reduce its supply to Meralco.

Estimates show that this arrangement—allowing First Gas and Quezon Power to operate at Minimum Energy Quantity (MEQ) of 83 percent and 86 percent, respectively—will bring down power cost by about 25 centavos/kWh.

Because of the substantial savings, both Napocor and Meralco agreed that about 14 centavos would be given to Napocor as settlement for the unused generating capacity of its power plants from 2002 to 2004.

Meralco senior vice president for utility economics Ivanna de la Peña explained that the unused capacity of Napocor would actually amount to P28 billion. However, since Napocor owes Meralco P8 billion for its failure to provide transmission services to Meralco's IPPs as stipulated in their contracts, the total amount to be extended by Meralco for Napocor's unused capacities was pegged at P20 billion.

BCDA, Fil-Estate nearing compromise deal on CJH

BAGUIO CITY—Fil-Estate has agreed to pay the government's demand for interest payment on a P1.2-billion Camp John Hay lease that remained unpaid since 1999, said Florencio Padernal, chair of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA).

Padernal said Fil-Estate's acknowledgement of its obligation would pave the way for the conclusion next week of two years of negotiations that threatened the Camp John Hay lease.

Early this year, the BCDA board of directors and the board of estate manager John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC) had issued resolutions terminating the John Hay development contract, awarded to Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco), a Fil-estate led consortium.

"They've already agreed to pay the interest, so I told them let's settle this now so we can end this (conflict). These (talks and the delays) have been fueling too much speculation already," Padernal said during the launching here of Camp John Hay's centennial celebrations.

"We can sign next week, maybe (on July 11), but I'd rather not discuss this any further until we actually sign the document," he said.

Last week, Fil-Estate and CJHDevco head John Sobrepena complained in a letter that BCDA had virtually demanded interest payments for negotiation delays during the 2000 impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada and his ouster during Edsa II in 2001.

But lawyer Gina Alvarez, CJHDevco counsel, told the INQUIRER on Saturday that both camps have again "agreed in principle" to thresh out their problems in time for the signing on July 11 of a final compromise agreement.

Padernal declined to specify the scope of the compromise, arguing that both parties are now settling minor points in the compromise deal.

But the terms involved an escrow arrangement, which guaranteed the BCDA of "full revenue" from the John Hay properties that would be sold in the next two years.

"Next year, CJHDevCo will be working for BCDA because all the revenues it will make will be turned over to the government," Alvarez said last week. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NDC to float bonds for South Luzon Toll Road-3 project

By Michelle V. Remo

NATIONAL Development Co. will issue government bonds to finance the construction of the P2-billion Toll Road 3 of the South Luzon Expressway, which will connect Sto. Tomas, Batangas to Calamba, Laguna.

The 7.8-kilometer TR3 is the missing link in the South Luzon Expressway, which already connects Lipa to Sto. Tomas in Batangas, and Calamba to Manila.

NDC assistant general manager Noel Kintanar said NDC and Philippine National Construction Corp. were fast-tracking the preparation of the engineering designs to finalize the amount of the project, which is estimated to range between P2.1 billion and P2.3 billion.

Kintanar said NDC would lend to PNCC the entire amount needed to finance the TR3 project, and that most of the funds would come from the issuance of bonds.

"It (the project) should have been completed in the '90s, but because of the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the joint venture (between PNCC and a former partner from the private sector) had problems taking off," Kintanar said.

He said PNCC would rush the bidding process for project contractors in order to meet the deadline set by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Kintanar said the President had ordered NDC and PNCC to start the TR3 construction on the last week of August or the first week of September.

DHL sets up help desks for traders

INTERNATIONAL courier services provider DHL Worldwide Express Corp. is discussing with the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority ways to make the Philippines a major trading hub in the region.

DHL Philippines country manager Charles Brewer said in an interview yesterday that the company had put some initiatives in place to help make the country more prominent in the global trading map.

Among these initiatives is the setting up within the country's economic zones of help desks for neophyte exporters and importers with 24/7 delivery and pick-up schedules.

He said many importers and exporters were having difficulties in breaking into the market because of their lack of knowledge in the field.

To address this, DHL had set up help desks to provide new entrants in the business the guidance on the basics of importation and exportation of goods.

DHL also provides daily, round-the-clock pick-ups and deliveries for locators in the country's economic zones.

Brewer said that during talks with the Peza and industry organizations Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) and the Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines (Fobap), he found out that many firms needed a courier service provider that could provide delivery and pickup services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Abigail L. Ho

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■ Negotiation Strategies: From Competition to Collaboration ■ Getting to the Table prepared: The Rules have changed! ■ Creating and Claiming Value: Managing the Tension! ■ Assessing One's Power and Capability: What is your preferred style? ■ Multi-party/Multi-issue Negotiations: Dealing with several publics	■ Making Agreements Implementable ■ Game Theory and Competitive Decision-Making ■ Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR): Mediation and the Use of Third Parties

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Prof. Ma. Nieves R. Confesor is the current Dean of the Institute. She holds the distinction of being the first woman to assume this position since the AIM was founded in 1968. Most of her experiences locally and internationally have proven successfully her negotiations expertise. She was the Philippine Secretary for Labor and Employment (DOLE). Her areas of specialization include: public policy development and analysis, public administration, women in development, employment planning and service administration, labor-management relations, skills development planning and administration, working conditions and productivity, workers' welfare programs, human resources development, general management, and conflict resolution and negotiations.

She is the first Filipino and Asian woman to serve as Chairperson of the ILO Governing Body. Dean Confesor holds a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University and an MBA degree from the Ateneo de Manila University.

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Gov't to lend out ₱10B to small-scale ventures

By Christine A. Gaylican

SOME P10 billion will be lent out for wholesale and retail lending to small and medium enterprises this second semester, Small Business Corp. (SB Corp.) chair Zorayda Amelia C. Alonzo said yesterday.

"There is a deluge of applications and we are confident that we will reach the P10-billion mark," Alonzo said during the opening of the Philippine Business Trade Fair last week.

Alonzo said the SB Corp. and its partners comprised of other government financial institutions lent out some P6.5 billion in wholesale and retail loans for SMEs in the first five months this year.

The SME lending program involves seven government financial institutions (GFIs): the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp. (Quedancor), the National Livelihood Support Fund (NLSF), the Philippine Export Import Credit Agency (PhilExim), the Social Security System (SSS) and the SB Corp.

ALONZO

Alonzo explained that SME Unified Lending Opportunities for National Growth (Sulong) falls under the National SME Development Agenda of the Arroyo administration. She noted that another P20 billion is also on the pipeline next year.

Alonzo noted that of the total amount lent out as of May this year, the LBP accounted for P4.4 billion while the DBP lent out of P1.517 billion.

SB Corp. issued loans amounting to P496.8 million while its counterpart, PhilExim, lent out P42.98 million.

Quedancor and NLSF were responsible for a combined lending of roughly P127 million.

"The P6.5 billion in releases is a manifestation of GFIs cooperation to help the sector, which in the case of the SB Corp., is really part of our mandate," Alonzo said. "In fact, we have been streamlining our operations for easier access by SME borrowers."

Including guarantees, the SB Corp. lending services amounted to P747.5 million, or 268 percent higher than the P202.85 million in the same period last .year. NLSF, is actually under the Land Bank, which has lending facilities for microfinancing.

Alonzo added that the government's assistance to SMEs involve training that would enable small firms to graduate as medium firms and medium companies to become large ones. "We are still assisting SMEs that they may be able to survive the stiff global competition and the high cost of doing business to eventually be on their own," said Alonzo.

DTI monitors cement prices

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry started a nationwide monitoring of cement prices amid some sectors' fear the imposition of a safeguard measure on imported cement would be used by local manufacturers to jack up their prices.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II warned local cement manufacturers against any move to raise their prices.

"There is no basis for prices of cement to move upward. The slowdown in construction activities during the rainy season reduces demand for cement and other construction materials," said Roxas in a statement.

The warning came after the DTI imposed a P20.60 additional duty on every 40-kilogram bag of imported Portland cement. The protective measure could lead to price abuses by local cement manufacturers as they now have protection from a surge in imports.

"We are monitoring the industry's progress to ensure industry players will act responsibly and will not exploit the situation to engage in activities that will limit the competition or abuse their market power," said Roxas.

Roxas said the imposition of the additional duty was taken by the government to protect the local industry from injurious competition and prevent displacement of workers.

He said the measure is intended to assist the local industry while it is still undertaking the necessary adjustments to fully develop and prepare for tougher competition against imports.

The government has given the local cement industry until 2004 to enjoy the tariff shield.

The imposition of the 20.60 additional duty on imported cement came after the Court of Appeals ruled that the DTI could implement the move despite an earlier decision by the Tariff Commission preventing the trade department from imposing the duty.

Cement importers have filed an appeal with the Supreme Court questioning the duty. But Roxas said they are sticking to the move based on the CA ruling.

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4.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	450,000	430,000
5.	CAMP JOHN HAY	230,000	200,000
6.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB		135,000
7.	CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA	180,000	170,000
8.	CLUB FILIPINO	150,000	130,000
9.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	400,000	350,000
10.	EASTRIDGE B		100,000
11.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	240,000
12.	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,200,000
13.	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,400,000	2,200,000
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20.	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF	720,000	650,000
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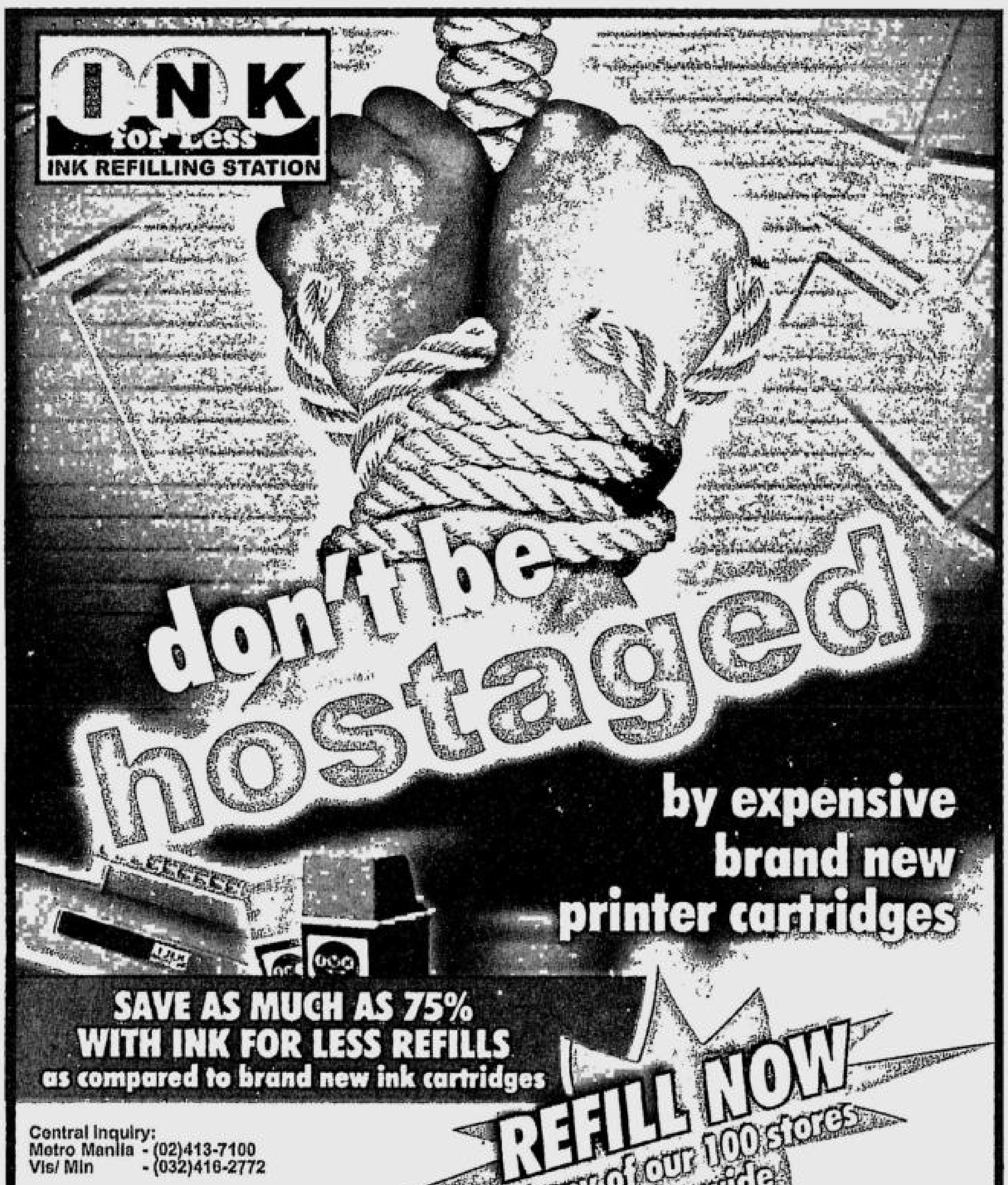
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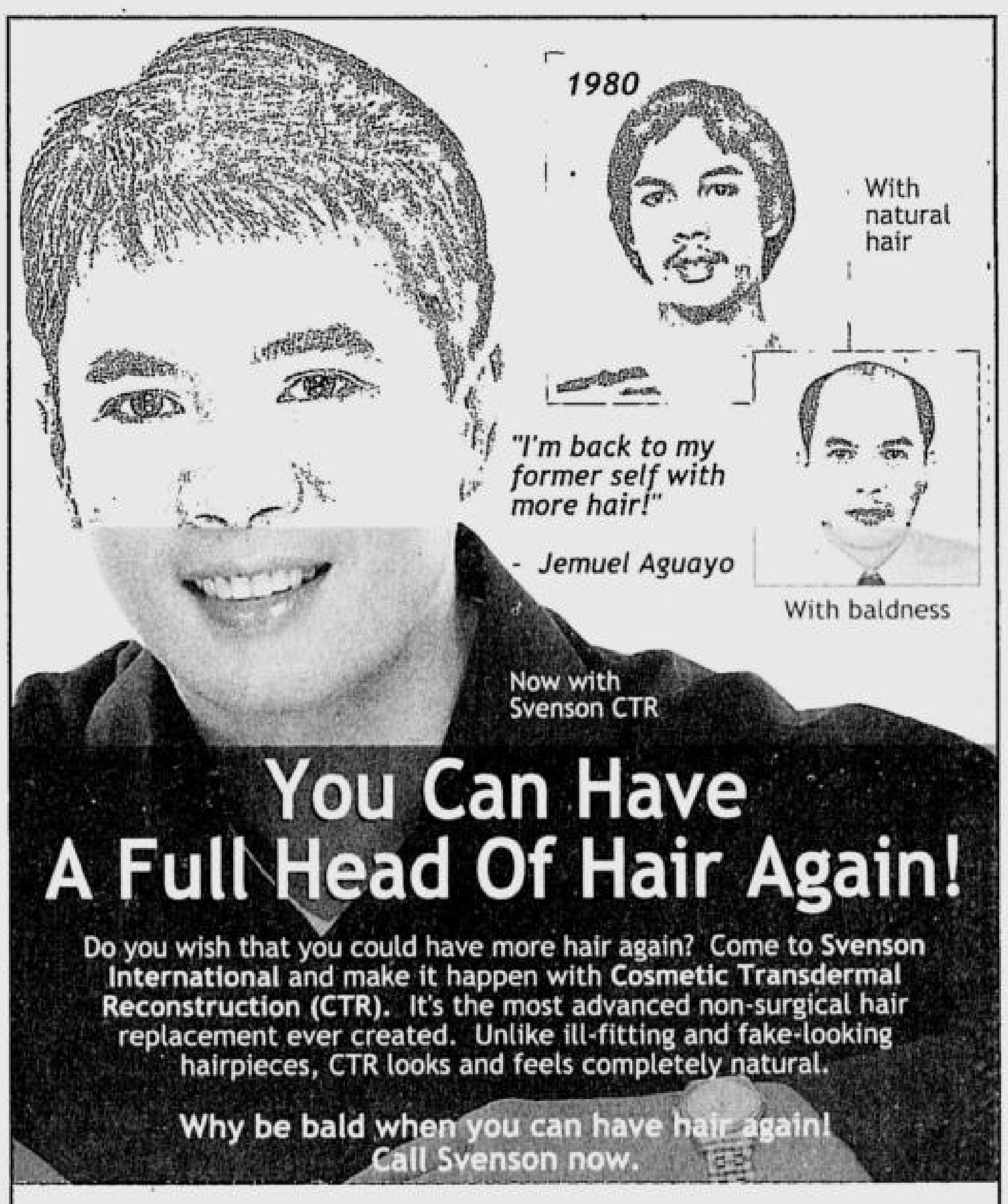

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An eye-catching article

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

ONE of my friends, who owns a Chinese restaurant and frequently takes me to lunch, met up one day with an attractive young lady who seemed to be very accommodating, so he invited her up to his apartment above the restaurant. After some preliminary kissing and cuddling, he went to take a shower. When he returned, she was lying naked on the bed quivering with anticipation. Being a perfect gentleman, he asked, "What would you like first?" "69," she replied, so he immediately grabbed the telephone and ordered "One beef with broccoli."

I had a similar experience about 20 years ago, before senility replaced virility. I was sitting in a restaurant alone when an attractive lady at the next table sneezed violently, and her glass eye flew in my direction. I caught it, polished it with my handkerchief, and returned it to her. She thanked me profusely and insisted on paying for my dinner. Then she suggested going to a movie, having a few drinks and staying the night at her place. We had a great time and next morning, she cooked me a sumptuous breakfast. I said to her, "Do you treat all the men you meet like that?" "No," she replied, "You happened to catch my eye."

* * *

FOR the past few weeks, I have been writing about technical analysis for people with computer software, but most of my readers do not have it, so this will be my last article for the time being. I want to return to writing about the big picture, particularly as the dividend season is approaching and I want to comment on company results, both here and in Wall Street. Filipinos may not care what is happening overseas, but the US economy is so important that what happens to it greatly affects all Asian countries, as we are all net exporters and the United States is everyone's largest trading partner.

Technical analysts use different charts, different indicators, and even different methods such as Elliott Wave, Fibonacci and Gann. But all of us use support and resistance levels as this is fundamental. I am the kind of person who does not believe anything unless it is mathematically proven so I am not into the more esoteric methods.

Support and resistance are born out of fear and greed, and are common to all nationalities. You will not find this in any textbook, but just as gravity diminishes with distance, so support and resistance diminish with time. This is obvious if you think about it. If you buy a stock at one peso and it falls to 80 centavos, assuming that you do not use stop losses, as you should, you will be eager to get out as soon as you can see it return to your buying price. So you call your broker and tell him to sell at one peso.

Unfortunately, there are probably hundreds of other investors who also bought at one peso because people like giving orders at round figures. So there are hundred of limit orders to sell at this price, and many people will have put in their sell orders before you. There is a strong possibility that the stock will not reach one peso bid, and will stop at 99 centavos with a large number of sellers posted. There is therefore strong resistance at one peso, especially as it is also a round number.

The stock reaches 99 centavos but due to the large number of sellers posted at one peso, it turns down and goes back to 90 centavos. Now you are really mad and you tell your broker to get you out at one peso at the earliest opportunity. Others have done the same so resistance has increased. In fact, the more times it touches one peso without breaking it, the stronger the resistance will become. If you understood investment psychology, you would have placed your selling order at 99 centavos and been hit first time around instead of suffering.

When the price eventually becomes one peso bid, the astute technical analyst will buy at P1.02 because he knows that every seller at one peso has been taken out, therefore, the price will go up. There are still eager buyers but no sellers, so it cannot go in any other direction. This is the basis of KAGI.

I remember that in England, decades ago, there was a company called Triumph Investment, which made ladies bras and still does. The shares were extremely volatile and rose from 50 pence to 140 pence. The company then announced a large rights issue at 100 pence. All the investors who had bought near the top were happy to take up the new shares and reduce their average price, so they took up their allotment and bought more. Those who had bought at a low price were unhappy about averaging up, so they sold.

A large two-way business took place and the stock closed at 99-101 pence for 21 consecutive days. During the 6-hour trading session, the shares were offered at 100 and snapped up, but as soon as the price was 100 bid, there was a wave of selling. At some stage there had to be a resolution to this situation. Either the buyers would prevail or the sellers would, so I put in an order to buy at 101, if the stock held 100 bid for 10 minutes. On the 22nd day, I bought 10,000 shares at 101 and an hour later, it was up to 118, so I sold. There was nothing brilliant about this. It was simply a question of who would win.

Time is a factor because if you bought your shares at one peso, 5 years ago, you would have either: got fed up and sold them at the bottom, given them to your children, or died. In any event, the resistance would have dissipated long ago, so I only look at resistance over the past 6 months. Support is exactly the reverse of resistance but there is one important difference. There is no such thing, as a market that is so good that nobody wants to sell. Intra-day traders and 3-day traders abound and are always looking to take profits. But there is such a thing as a market that is so bad that nobody wants to buy. Think back to 9/11 when the Twin Towers were destroyed. The US market was suspended but all other markets around the world disintegrated. Nobody wanted to buy and when the US market finally opened, it fell steadily for about 2 months. The moral is that support is not reliable in a really bad market. I will return to this subject at a later date because it is so important.

As our market has become more volatile due to continuous foreign buying, I have switched my long-term degree-of-risk indicator to a short-term version and increased the number of shares followed from 20 to 30, including second liners. The long-term chart gave a BUY of GLOBE at P620, rather late, but the short-term gave a BUY at P605, 4 days earlier. It is now P685. If the market continues on its present course, I will increase the number of active shares followed. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

Driller finds 2 potential oil, gas reservoir zones in north Cebu

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INDICATIONS of two potential reservoir zones of oil and gas were found during onshore drilling activities in northern Cebu, a Canadian exploration firm said.

Tracer Petroleum Corp., which has a 66-percent stake in Forum Exploration Inc., said in a report that the well called Forum 1-X had been drilled to a depth of 1,010 feet as of June 16.

According to Department of Energy records, Forum 1-X is located in Barangay Maya, Daanbantayan, Cebu, and is the first of three exploratory wells under Service Contract No. 40, which covers the northern half of Cebu and part of the Visayan Sea to the west.

Larry Youell, Tracer Petroleum president and chief executive, said the oil and gas shows that were encountered during the drilling were validated by further instrument tests.

"The plan is to deepen the well for another 1,000 to 1,500 feet (subject to government approval), which may be extended further depending on the hydrocarbon show we encounter," Youell said.

The oil executive explained that the deepening program was expected to test two geologic formations that were "proven oil-bearing structure(s)."

Youell added that a series of drill stem test, which aims to determine whether the zones could possibly produce oil or gas, would begin once the deepening has been completed.

In an earlier report, Tracer Petroleum said it had completed last April 28 the acquisition of 66 percent of the outstanding shares of Forum Exploration worth $10 million.

Through the first well called Forum 1-X, Forum Exploration wants to confirm whether the petroleum reserves of the so-called Maya Prospect is of commercial volume.

First discovered in 1961 by Mobil and American Asiatic Oil Co., the Maya Prospect produced about 540 barrels of oil during eight days of well testing.

Meantime, private sector data showed that subsequent wells drilled in the 1960s and 1970s also flowed oil during tests, although production at commercial levels was never achieved.

Also, the DOE said Forum Exploration was also re-assessing the Libertad gas prospect in Bogo town in Cebu.

The company had drilled between 1994 and 1995 five exploratory wells in the area, one of which flowed about 9 million cubic feet of natural gas a day of testing.

Forum Exploration is also working to secure a geophysical survey and exploration contract that covers 1.28 million hectares in Manila Bay and West Central Luzon.

Peza gives IT zone status to ABS-CBN's QC building

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. has secured approval from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to convert its P6-billion ELJ Communications Center beside its Quezon City complex into an information technology zone, company chair Eugenio Lopez III said.

The ELJ Center will thus be the second IT zone to be declared by the Peza within Quezon City, next to Megaworld Corp.'s Eastwood City in Libis.

Lopez told reporters the leading network got the go-ahead from Peza the other week, paving the way for the entry of new call center companies into the building.

He said ABS-CBN had recently signed a lease agreement with the R&H call center group and would likely complete a similar deal with another group very soon. The government provides fiscal incentives to firms locating in IT zones.

The ELJ building has 15 floors, of which three would be allotted as the IT zone. The three floors (5th to 7th) to be leased out offer a total area of about 10,000 square meters.

Lopez earlier estimated that ABS-CBN would earn between P400 and P500 per square meter in lease rate, similar to the average lease rate in most of the buildings in Makati.

In the past, the ELJ property has been a drag on ABS-CBN's earnings. This year, however, the network expects its net profit to recover to "well over a billion" from only P165.78 million in 2002 on record-breaking airtime sales chalked up starting May.

This developed as ABS-CBN reported more than P1 billion in local radio and television advertising sales for the second straight month in June. It posted record-breaking gross airtime sales of P1.1 billion following another P1 billion in May, bringing the company's six-month revenue from the radio and TV networks to P5.1 billion or 25 percent better than a year ago.

The phenomenal success of the Taiwanese TV series "Meteor Garden," which premiered only last May and has since captured a big chunk of late afternoon viewership, also contributed to the surge in its advertising revenues.

DMCI, Rightfield face trading suspension

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has threatened to suspend trading of the shares of two more companies—DMCI Holdings Inc. and Universal Rightfield Property Holdings—by July 15 for failure to comply with reporting requirements.

The PSE said the listed companies failed to submit 200 copies of their quarterly report using the standard form prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The companies likewise failed to pay the corresponding fines, the PSE added.

The trading suspension will thus be implemented unless the companies comply with the requirements before July 15.

The PSE charges a basic fine of P50,000 and another P5,000 per day for the delay in the submission of these requirements.

Stocks . . .

From page B1

"Two weeks ago, a lot of investors are waiting for a correction but that didn't happen," he said. "The momentum is continuing and it has generated optimism."

Although a lot of positive news had been digested by the market in the past weeks, Macapagal said the absence of any negative news was helping the market sustain its uptick.

However, Macapagal said it remained to be seen whether the market could rise past 1,300 as value turnover was still not big enough.

"There are still foreign funds coming in, but we haven't seen a return to the P1-billion (daily) volume. But we've seen improvements," Macapagal said.

Total value turnover yesterday stood at P631.7 million. Advances edged out losers 54 to 20, with 29 stocks unchanged.

Ayala Corp. was the most actively traded stock, rising 10 centavos to close at P4.75 while subsidiaries Ayala Land Inc. and Bank of the Philippine Islands likewise went up.

Lopez-owned and -affiliated companies likewise benefited from the positive momentum.

Manila Electric Co. "B" was up by P1.50 to close at P18.50 on favorable outlook on its ongoing debt restructuring while First Philippine Holdings gained 75 centavos to close at P15.25.

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., which expects a recovery in profits to over a billion pesos this year, gained P2.25 to close at P22 while preferred shares were also up by P2 to P22.25.

The Lopezes' Benpres Holdings likewise inched up by 4 centavos to close at 63 centavos.

Lecaros said a lot of stocks have been trading below book value and should see a further upside, among them Meralco, Globe Telecom, Security Bank, Ayala Corp., Petron Corp. and Filinvest Land Inc.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 7, 2003)

Stocks	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	1,000
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.5	87,400
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	48	48	47.5	48	459,500
China Banking Corp.	755	755	755	755	1,120
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	33	35.5	·33	35	380,400
First E-Bank Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	120,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	320,300
Philippine National Bank	25	27	25	26.5	120,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	13.75	12.5	13.75	71,300
Security Bank Corp.	15	17.75	15	17.5	1,014,400
Union Bank Of The Phil.	20.25	21.5	20.25	21.25	122,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1515	1515	1500	1500	1,630
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.76	0.76	200,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1115	1100	1115	2,910
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	20.25	22 25	20.25	22	65,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	940,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	685	655	685	90,540
Ipeople, Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	250,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.045	3,500,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	1,400,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.44	0.48	0.44	0.47	8,390,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	580	585	575	580	97,290
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	436,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	11.5	13	11.5	12.5	4,286,200
Manila Electric Co. B	16.75	18.75	16.75	18.5	3,950,000
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.08	2.04	2.08	5,122,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.7	365,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.46	913,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.95	492,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0 45	0.5	0 45	0.5	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	560,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	15,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	276,100
Swift Food Inc.	0.29	0.32	0.27	0.31	930,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	73,600
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	63.5	63	63.5	101,800
Universal Robina Corp.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.3	29,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0 25	0.23	0.23	370,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	50,000
Ayala Corp.	4.65	4.75	4.65	4.75	22,411,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	300,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.42	2.46	2.42	2.44	265,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	1,700,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.0775	0.0775	1,300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	37,000,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.68	1.62	1.68	26,000
Atr Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	12,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.14	0.1	0.1	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.63	20,560,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,000,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	1,440,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,220,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	14.5	15.5	14.5	15.25	2,613,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	500,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.74	1.7	1.74	364,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	8,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.78	1,120,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	3,620,000
Music Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	2,520,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	80,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0 27	0.28	0.27	0.28	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	4,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	311,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.05	0.055	1,400,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	15 75	15.75	15 75	15.75	92,300
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.61	2,770,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	230,000
Mondragon Intl Phils, Inc.	0.24	0.27	0.24	0.27	610,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.4	0 4	0.38	0.39	550,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Abs-Cbn Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.25	22.25	20.25	22.25	605,400
Pldt 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	4,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0022	0 0024	0.0022	0.0024	74,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	3,057,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	50,000
C & P Homes Inc	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	560,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	4,920,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	6,190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.2	1.08	1.2	23,696,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.16	2.18	250,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	110,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	420,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	2,450,000
Primex Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.35	70,000
Sm Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	40,000
Sm Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	5,438,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	100,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.004	106,000,000
Oil					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	6,900,000
Interport Res.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	15,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.0036	0.003	0.0034	501,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.0034	0.003	0.0034	178,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	600,000

DISCLOSURES

SUBJECT to the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Equitable PCI Bank Inc. and Equitable PCI Life Insurance Co. Inc. entered into and executed a bank assurance agreement on July 4, wherein EPCI Life agreed to engage in the cross-selling within Equitable's branch network, and the use of Equitable's branches as outlets for the presentation and sale of financial products.

* * *

PHILIPPINE National Construction Corp., in reaction to the reported hold of its privatization, said its privatization is a mandate of the national government. The implementation of which would be through the Privatization and Management Office and the Privatization Council of the Department of Finance.

* * *

UNION Cement Corp. elected the following officers: Oscar Hilado, chairman; Jeremy Maycock, vice chairman; Magdaleno Albarracin Jr., president; and Paul O'Callaghan, chief operating officer.

* * *

THE MANAGEMENT committee of Victorias Milling Co. Inc. appointed Nilo Florcruz as compliance officer. He is also the company's AVP for Makati Operations, assistant corporate secretary at Mancom secretary.

* * *

THE BOARD of Philippine National Bank approved the honorable cessation from service of Ann Tuason, SVP and deputy head of the human resources group, effective July 1. ***Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

July 7, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.869943	1.000000	53.395000
Japan	Yen	0.007360	0.008460	0.451700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.451936	1.669000	89.116300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111564	0.128243	6.847500
Switzerland	Franc	0.645024	0.741455	39 590000
Canada	Dollar	0.651107	0.748447	39 963300
Singapore	Dollar	0.496968	0.571265	30.502700
Australia	Dollar	0.593818	0.682594	36.447100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.307665	2.652661	141.638800
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231979	0.266660	14.238300
Brunei	Dollar	0.495553	0.569638	30.415800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020872	0.023992	1.281100
UAE	Dirham	0.236854	0.272264	14.537500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.149500	61.377600
Argentina	Peso	0.311250	0.357782	19.103800
Brazil	REAL	0.307836	0.353857	18.894200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134492	0.154598	8.254800
India	Rupee	0.018789	0.021598	1.153200
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228963	0.263193	14.053200
Mexico	New Peso	0.083592	0.096089	5.130700
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518750	0.596303	31.839600
Norway	Kroner	0.120992	0.139080	7.426200
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015103	0.017361	0.927000
South Africa	Rand	0.115684	0.132979	7.100400
Korea	Won	0.000735	0.000845	0.045100
Sweden	Kroner	0.109167	0.125488	6.700400
Syria	Pound	0.020713	0.023810	1.271300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025326	0.029112	1.554400
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000545	0.000627	0.033500

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Supply and Installation of Additional Taxiway Guidance Signage & Rehabilitation of Existing Signage with Replacement Spare Parts for DMIA, Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga	Airfield Ground Lighting System and Electrical Works with Civil works	At least Medium B for Navaids Facilities (AGL) Installation and Electrical Works (Specialties)	"A" - General Engineering	Php 20 Million	150 Calendar days

Prospective Contractors should have at least three (3) years of proven experience and excellent track record as prime contractor in Airfield Ground Lighting System (particularly Taxiway Guidance Signage Project) in the Philippines and the value of prospective contractor's largest single contract completed must be equivalent to Php 10 Million or at least equivalent to the 50% of the approved budget for the subject project for bidding. The prospective contractors shall fully comply with all the requirements and criteria stated in the Application for Eligibility/Eligibility Forms and in the Instructions to Applicants for Eligibility and to Bid for the subject Project.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance from *02 July 2003 to 08 July 2003* upon submission of a letter of intent addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), and payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Thousand (Php 5,000.00) at the *Office of the BAC Secretariat, Bldg. #2127, CSEZ, Clark Field, Pampanga*. Duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms including documented proofs (One Certificate of Completion and Acceptance of previous project on Taxiway Guidance Signage with similar nature and complexity within the last ten consecutive years from 1993 to 2003) shall be submitted on or before 4:00 p.m. of *July 11, 2003* at the address mentioned above.

All particulars relative to the eligibility of bidders bidding, evaluation and determination of lowest calculated responsive bids and award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184, EO 40 and PD 1594, as amended and their respective Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended.

Eligible Contractor(s) shall be notified in writing and only those who had been found eligible by CDC for the subject project may secure Proposal/Bidding Documents, Specifications and Terms of Reference for the subject Project upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Ten Thousand (Php 10,000.00) before the pre-bid conference, which will be scheduled thereafter. Submission and opening of bids will be announced later.

CDC reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility and proposals without offering any reasons, waive any defect or requuired formality, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal/bid is considered the most advantageous to the government, nor it does guarantee that an award shall be made.

Submission and opening of bids shall be announced in the Notice of Eligible Bidders.

All inquiries and letters shall be addressed to:

The BAC Secretariat
Clark Development Corporation
3rd Floor, Bldg. 2127, E. Quirino St., CSEZ, Pampanga

(Sgd.) ROMEO N. DYOCO, JR.
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 2 & 8, 2003)

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BCDA

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the development and privatization of Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 of Block 55 at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila covering an approximate total area of 3,266 square meters.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to participate in the privatization.

The TOR for the Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 in Block 55 is available at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is PhP5,000.00 payable to BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., 23 July 2003. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP COMMITTEE-2
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0420 or 510-0411 or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or bandal@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) Chairman
ADP Committee-2

(PDI–July 1, 8 & 15, 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given of the loss of Sta. Elena Golf Club Inc. Share#M0188 & Canlubang Golf & Country Club Inc. Share#1762 in the name of EDMUNDO T. ONGSIAKO. If no one contest one year from date of publication a new cert. will be issued.
(PDI- June 24, July 1 & 8, 2003)

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"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven..." — **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

Mabel Florence Lincallo Hodreal

Passed away on July 7, 2003 at the age of 41.

Her body lies in state at Jose Rizal Chapel - La Funeraria Paz Sucat, Dr. A. Santos Avenue inside Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Her bereaved mother: **Ma. Delia Lincallo vda. De Hodreal**;

Brothers & Sisters: **Joseph**, **Benjie**, **Heidi**, **Hudson**, **Aristotle**, **Jackson Victor**;

Nieces & Nephews: **Jing-Jing** & **Jimbo**, **Jon-Jon** & **Mutya**, **Meanne** & **Paolo**, **Don Michael**, **Joan**, **Azrielle**, **Arianne Jane** & **Mathew Lesley**, **Alain** & **Tamara**, **Xavier Miguel**, **John Cedric** & **Juan Gabriel.**

Interment will be on Friday, July 11, 2003 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz - Sucat.

HIS EMINENCE, JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN
Archbishop of Manila

The Auxiliary Bishops and clergy of the Archdiocese of Manila; bereaved sister-in-law: **Dra. Esperanza Abriol**; nephews and nieces: **Prisca** & **Winston**, **Nori** & **Jun**, **Nick** & **Ana**, **Jose** & **Norie**, **Lucy** & **Boyet**, **Tony** & **Macky** and **Vic** & **Lucy**; relatives and friends

deeply mourn the demise of

REV. MSGR. JOSE C. ABRIOL

who died on July 6, 2003 at the age of 85.

His remains will lie in state at the following:

- Auditorium, Arzobispado de Manila, 121 Arzobispo Street, Intramuros, Manila (Monday, July 7 until Wednesday afternoon July 9)
- Manila Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila (Wednesday afternoon, July 9 until Thursday morning, July 10)

Interment follows at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery after the funeral Mass on Thursday, July 10, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the Manila Cathedral.

We request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..." Psalm 21:15

Our Beloved Mother

Marietta Ebro Dakudao

widow of the late
Dr. Santiago Lacson Dakudao, Jr.
Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 3, 2003 at the age of 75.

Her bereaved children **Marisa** and **Oscar Villaroman**, **Santiago Jose** and **Benedicta**, **Michaelangelo**, **Maria Dulce** and **Peter Yap, Jr.**, **Raymond Santiago**, **Paul Anthony** and **Ma. Rosabel**, **Marietta Irene**; grandchildren **Oscar Santiago** (†), **Vianne Marie**, **Antonino**, **Joseph**, **David**, **Patrick Miguel** and **Monica**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Home.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 9, 2003 at the Dakudao Mausoleum in Tugbok after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at the Chapel of the Carmalites Monastery, Bajada, Davao City.

Message of Thanks

Husband **BIEN**; children **BOY**, **Fr. NONG**, **NING**, **SONNY**, **RONNIE**, **CHONG**, **BOYET** and **CHIE**; in-laws and grandchildren of

LETY SANZ REALUYO

July 28, 1937 – June 28, 2003

wish to convey our deepest gratitude to all those who came to condole with us in our hour of bereavement, and to all those who sent flowers, mass cards and offered prayers, or in one way or another expressed their sorrow for the loss of our beloved Mommy. We will treasure these final moments in our hearts.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

In Loving Memory
on the Third Death Anniversary of

GABRIELA B. ELEOSIDA
PRESENTACION B. BAUTISTA

of Batac, Ilocos Norte and Kidapawan City

Masses will be offered at the following:

Our Lady of Mediatrix *Kidapawan City*	6:00 AM
Immaculate Conception *Vista Verde, Cainta*	6:00 AM
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills*	6:00 AM
Saint Genevieve *Panorama City, California*	6:00 AM
Saint Anne Church *Taguig, Rizal*	6:00 AM

In Memory of Our Beloved

Pacifico M. Villanueva

(Sept. 15, 1920 - July 6, 2003)
of Odiongan Romblon & St. Ignatius Vill., Q.C.

His loving wife Bernardita Salumbides, son Robert & daughter-in-law Divina, grandchildren Gabriel & Ian, brothers & sisters, relatives, friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at St. Ignatius Chapel, St. Ignatius Village, Libis, Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 10, 2003, Thursday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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IN MEMORIAM

AFFECTIONATELY REMEMBERING ON
THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DEATH OF OUR DEARLY BELOVED

Atty. Francisco (Tito) B. Santiago
10 October 1940 - 8 July 1996

We knew little that early morning of July 8, 1996
GOD was going to call your name,
In life we loved you dearly, in death
we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone; for part of us
went with you,
The day GOD called you home.
You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide;
and though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same;
But as GOD calls us one by one,
The CHAIN will link again.

The Holy Sacrifice of the mass shall be offered at the following churches:

Christ the King Parish Church, Green Meadows 6:00 p.m
Nuestra Sra. de Guia Church, Ermita, Manila 8:00 a.m.
Redemptorist Church, Baclaran, Parañaque 6:45 a.m.
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish, BF Homes, Parañaque 7:00 p.m.
Philam Life Chapel, Ma. Orosa St., Manila 12:00 n.n.
St. Peter Parish, Commonwealth, Quezon City 12:00 n.n.
Nuestra Sra. Dela Estrada, La Vista, Quezon City 6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan 6:00 p.m.

A special mass will be offered on
Tuesday, July 8, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. at
Himlayan Pilipino Chapel, Novaliches, Quezon City

Our many thanks to all who keep him
in their memory
Elo, Chinky, Jonas, Jenny
Gina and Don and Cessie

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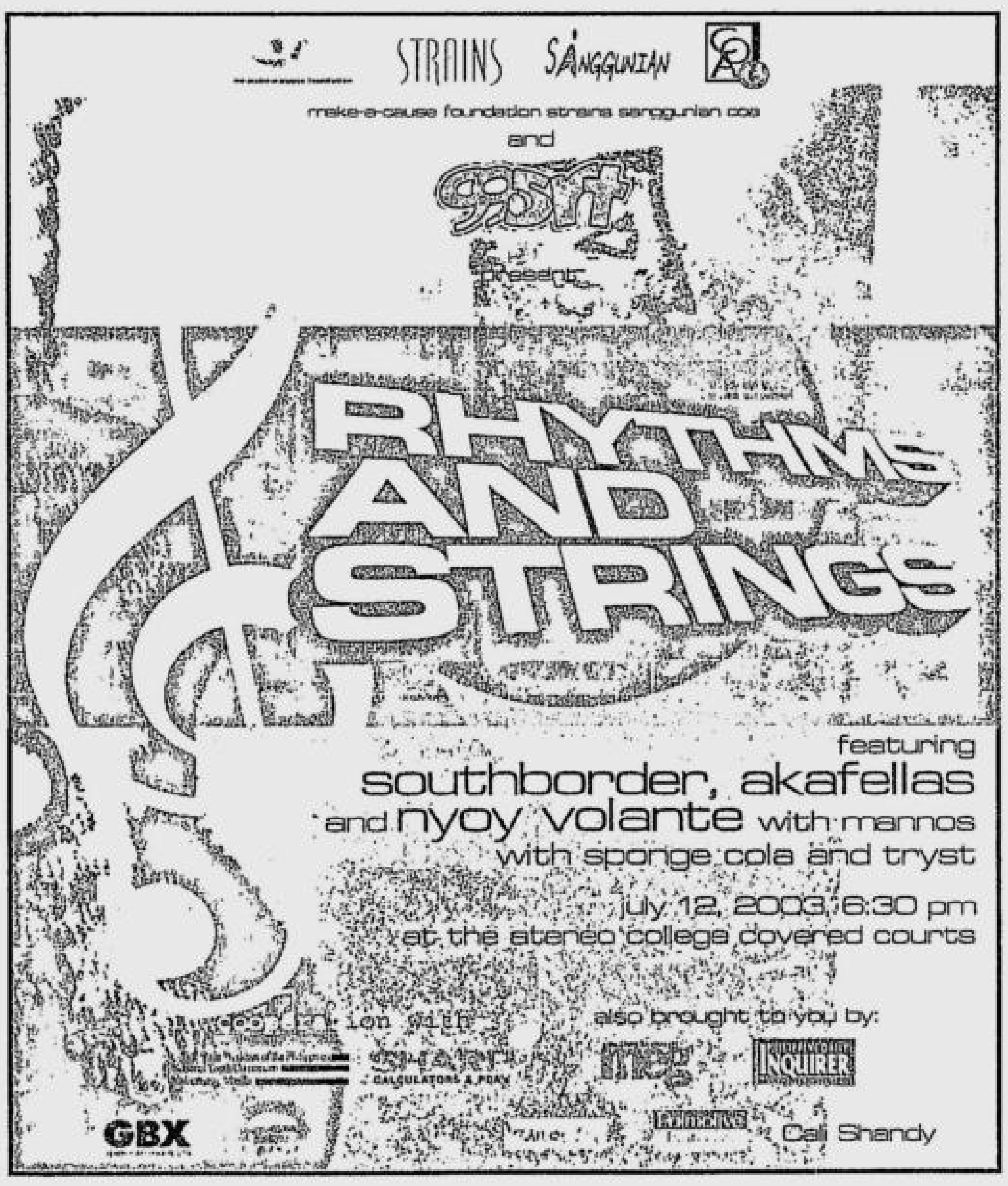
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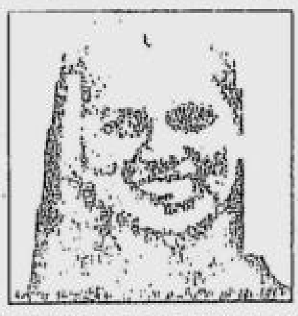

TERESITA V. TOBIAS, whose picture appears above, the former OIC of TOWNCALL Lending Investors, Inc., San Jose City Branch with known addresses in Thursday St., Caridad-RFG Village, Cabanatuan City and Bgy. Macabaclay, Bongabon, Nueva Ecija, has a Standing Warrant of Arrest for Qualified Theft before Regional Trial Court – Branch 39, in San Jose City. Province of Nueva Ecija.

A reward will be given to anyone with information leading to the arrest of the above person. You may call TOWNCALL Lending Investors, Inc. – Head Office at Tel. Nos. (044) 463-1143, (044) 463-5656, (044) 463-5618 and (044) 600-4769. All information shall be kept in full confidentiality.

(PDI–July 8, 2003)

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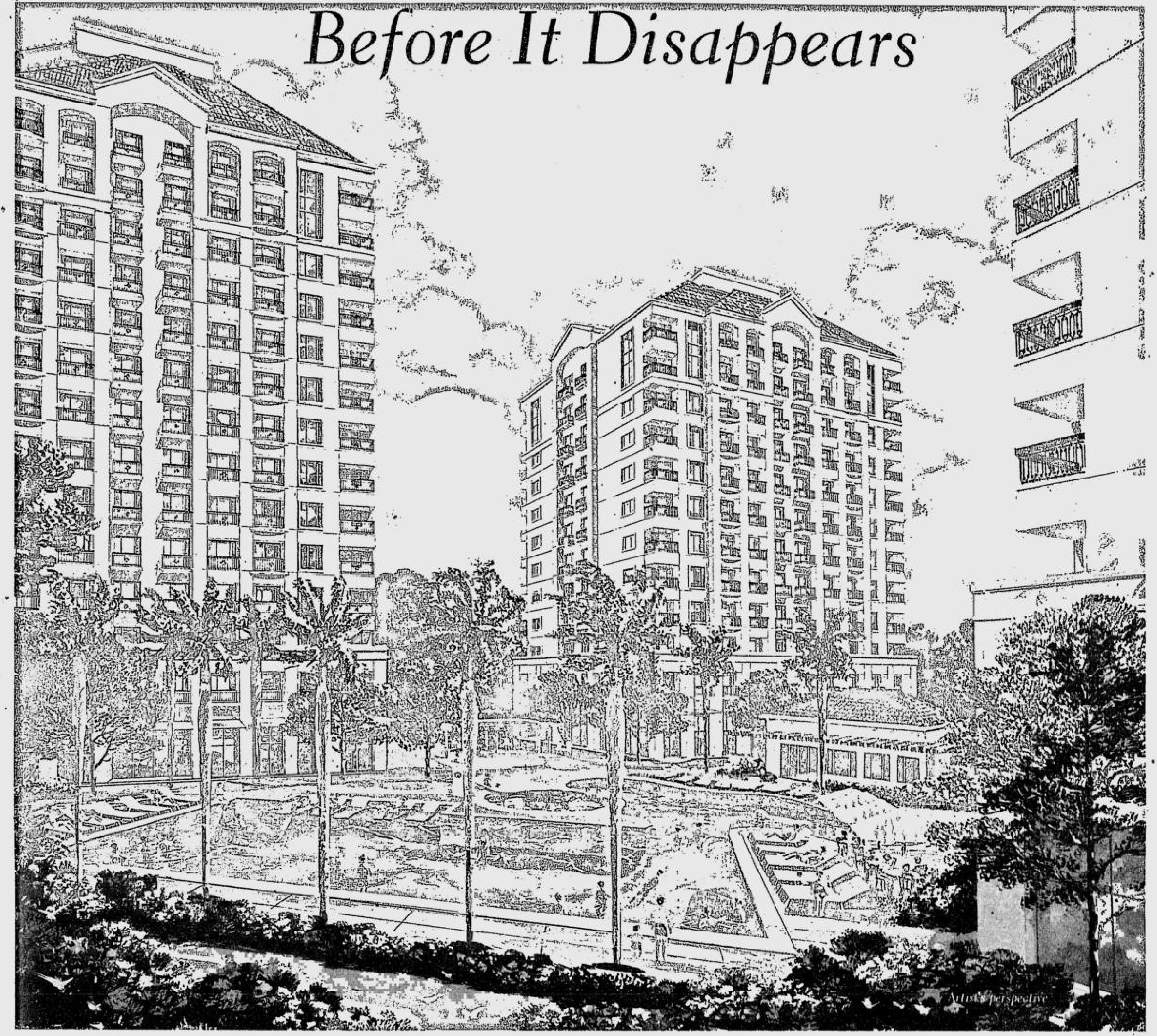
Artist's perspective

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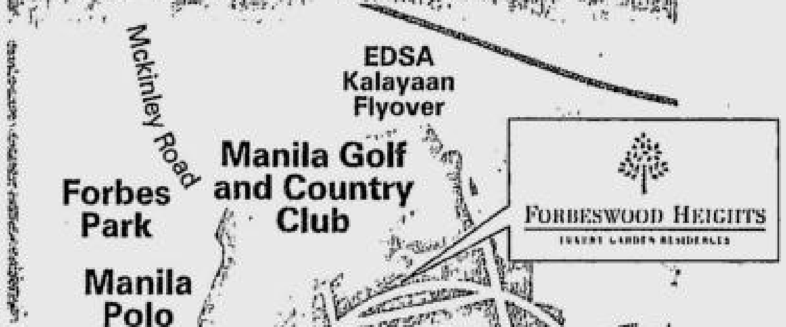
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E-mail: pr_real_estate@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Expressway to use 4-M cu. m. of lahar

By Tessa R. Salazar

AN ESTIMATED 3 to 4 million cubic meters of lahar will be removed from Central Luzon riverbanks and used to build the 94.5-kilometer highway linking the former Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base. In the process, the government stands to save up to P2.1 billion in desilting and at the same time unclog rivers affected by the lahar flows (composed of water-saturated volcanic debris) following the 1991 Mount Pinatubo eruption.

An estimated 800 million cubic meters of lahar now lie idle in Central Luzon.

Japanese design engineers specializing in highway and bridge engineering told the INQUIRER that high-tech cement-based solidifying chemicals would be used as stabilizing agents for lahar. This will make the compaction ratio of the Subic-Tarlac-Clark circuit 50 percent higher than other base materials.

Use of lahar

The Pacific Consultants International, Katahira & Engineers International and Nippon Koei Co. Ltd will provide the key expatriate staff. Ten Filipino firms will provide the local technical and administration staff.

Using lahar as construction material is not new for the Japanese engineers, who have used lahar and other indigenous materials in previous projects. They also know lahar can easily be eroded if used without stabilizing agents. Lahar, however, is lighter and an economical substitute to quarrying, said Norikazu Onuma, project manager and lead consultant for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project.

Said Rolando J. Tongco of the Bases Conversion Development Authority: "There would be no need for quarrying. Obtaining lahar can clear floodwaters and riverbeds in Zambales and Pampanga." Tongco is the program manager for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project.

Wider than Edsa

The road will have a design speed of 120 kph. Factored into this design are the mountainous parts along Subic and Clark the highway will pass through. All curves and elevations have been considered for smoother rides, especially for trucks carrying bulk loads.

The highway will be 60 meters wide, even wider than the 40-meter-wide Epifanio de los Santos Avenue in Metro Manila, the country's busiest avenue.

The highway will be designed for four lanes (two lanes each way). The allocated land, however, is good for 10 lanes.

The P18-billion expressway project will enable vehicles to take as short as 30 minutes to cross Subic and Clark, a trip that would normally take two hours.

The toll system will employ the card technology similar to the South Luzon Expressway's Skyway, but the management assures toll fares would be affordable for small entrepreneurs engaged in farm-to-market transport, said Tongco.

Monitoring cameras

Every kilometer of the highway will be scanned by a monitoring camera equipped with 24-hour laser radar guidance system to detect stalled trucks and overspeeding vehicles.

The Tokyo-based Pacific Consultants International has worked in over 50 countries in Asia, Middle East, Africa, Central and South America. It has been involved in all aspects of the planning, design and construction management of roads, highways, bridges and tunnels.

The PCI has done feasibility studies, detailed engineering design and construction supervision including activities before and after construction for many roads and bridge projects in various countries.

Its projects include the Bohol Circumferential Road improvement project; Allacapan Aritao road section, a Philippine-Japan friendship highway rehabilitation project 2, C-5 Ortigas Extension Interchange Project Phase 1, and the Metro Manila Tollway Project.

The Katahira & Engineers International has experience in engineering consultancy in various parts of the world, particularly in Japan and the Philippines. Its services include planning, design and construction supervision, which covers route selection and alignment studies using aerial photo surveys.

The KEI has rendered consulting services in the Philippines, including the South Luzon Expressway Extension, the Metro Manila Urban Expressway System and the Luzon Island Strategic Road Network Development Project.

The South Luzon Expressway Extension from the Calamba exit to Batangas City has a total length of 49.5 km with a four-lane divided freeway, four major crossings, three interchanges and one river bridge and farm crossing.

The KEI was also involved with the Rural Roads Network Development Project and Dalton Pass Section under the Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway Rehabilitation Project (Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya).

Nippon Koei specializes in highways and bridge engineering and has undertaken construction, modernization and extension of regional arterial roads, intra- and inter-urban expressways and sections of transcontinental highways.

The firm has been involved in highway bridges of various types and lengths; the world's longest suspension and cable stay bridges; highway tunnels; and related facilities including bypasses and interchanges.

The project has received a special yen loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation through the Philippine government and the BCDA.

2 Ayala Land execs named RP's best in investment communications

AYALA Land Inc. president and chief executive officer Francisco H. Licuanan III and chief finance officer Jaime E. Ysmael were adjudged the best in the Philippines by the Institutional Investor Research Group and Reuters. The two were chosen in terms of their effectiveness in meeting the information needs of the investment community.

In a survey of key investment decision makers in Asia, sell-side analysts chose the best CEO and CFO in each of 11 Asian countries. The Asia Equities Investment Report underscored that the strength of a company's leadership team is a key determinant in the investment process. It highlighted senior executives who were "aware of investor expectations, understand the factors that affect shareholder value, and are accessible to investors."

As further proof of the commitment of Licuanan and Ysmael to building and maintaining market relations, ALI was also cited by sell-side analysts for having the best and most improved company investor relations among real estate firms in Asia, and the best investor relations among all Philippine companies.

Top Asian companies were judged according to 13 criteria, such as speed of response to inquiries, access to management, quality of ongoing relationship with investors, quality and depth of answers to inquiries, one-to-one meetings/phone calls, site visits, corporate website, e-mail alerts, transparency and quality of financial reporting and disclosure, and assistance in making investors understand the company's long-term corporate direction and comparative position in the industry. ALI's investor relations unit is headed by Christine Reyes.

Sell-side analysts also chose Ayala Land from among 10 leading Philippine companies as best in corporate governance. Cited as an overriding corporate governance concern was the need for improved information disclosure, e.g. transparency and fair distribution of information. The importance of board structure and its independence were also identified as key issues.

The Asia Equities Investment Report was sponsored by Reuters, the leading global provider of financial information, news and technology solutions to financial institutions, the media, businesses and individuals. It was developed, executed and published by the Institutional Investor Research Group, which has developed comprehensive market research reports based on published Institutional Investor magazine surveys since 1995. Its analyses are widely used by the security industry in the United States, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

BRENTVILLE International's main clubhouse

Clubhouse facilities open

PROPERTY developer Filinvest Land Inc. recently opened the main clubhouse, with complete facilities for sports and leisure activities, at its premier residential project, Brentville International, in Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna.

FLI president Joseph Yap led investors, residents and guests in simple ceremonies marking another "delivered commitment" to the Brentville community.

"Brentville International is now the foremost expatriate community in the south. From the tastefully designed homes of The Classiques, distinct and secure subcommunities, carefully planned features and amenities, to nearby Brent International School, Brentville offers a beautiful alternative address—one that uniquely combines the comforts of city living with the tranquility of a suburban lifestyle," said Yap during the opening.

From its launch in September 1998, Brentville is now a thriving community as reflected in the construction of residences in the different clusters and the completion of The Village Front, its complete neighborhood commercial center.

With the opening of the clubhouse facilities, residents can spend afternoons with friends at the Palm courts, swim laps at the club pool, practice their backhand at the tennis courts or shoot hoops at the basketball court.

Highly secured clusters, themed residences, complete amenities and facilities, Brent International School and superior location make Brentville the preferred choice for residential or investment decisions.

Brentville is located at the Mamplasan Exit along the South Luzon Expressway and a 15-minute drive from Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang.

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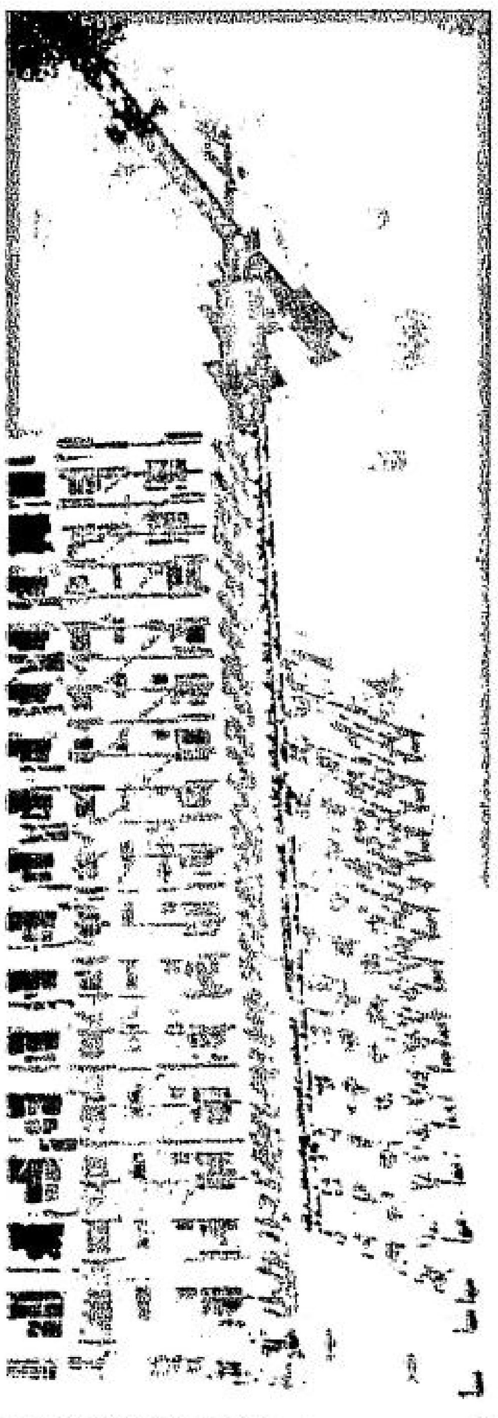
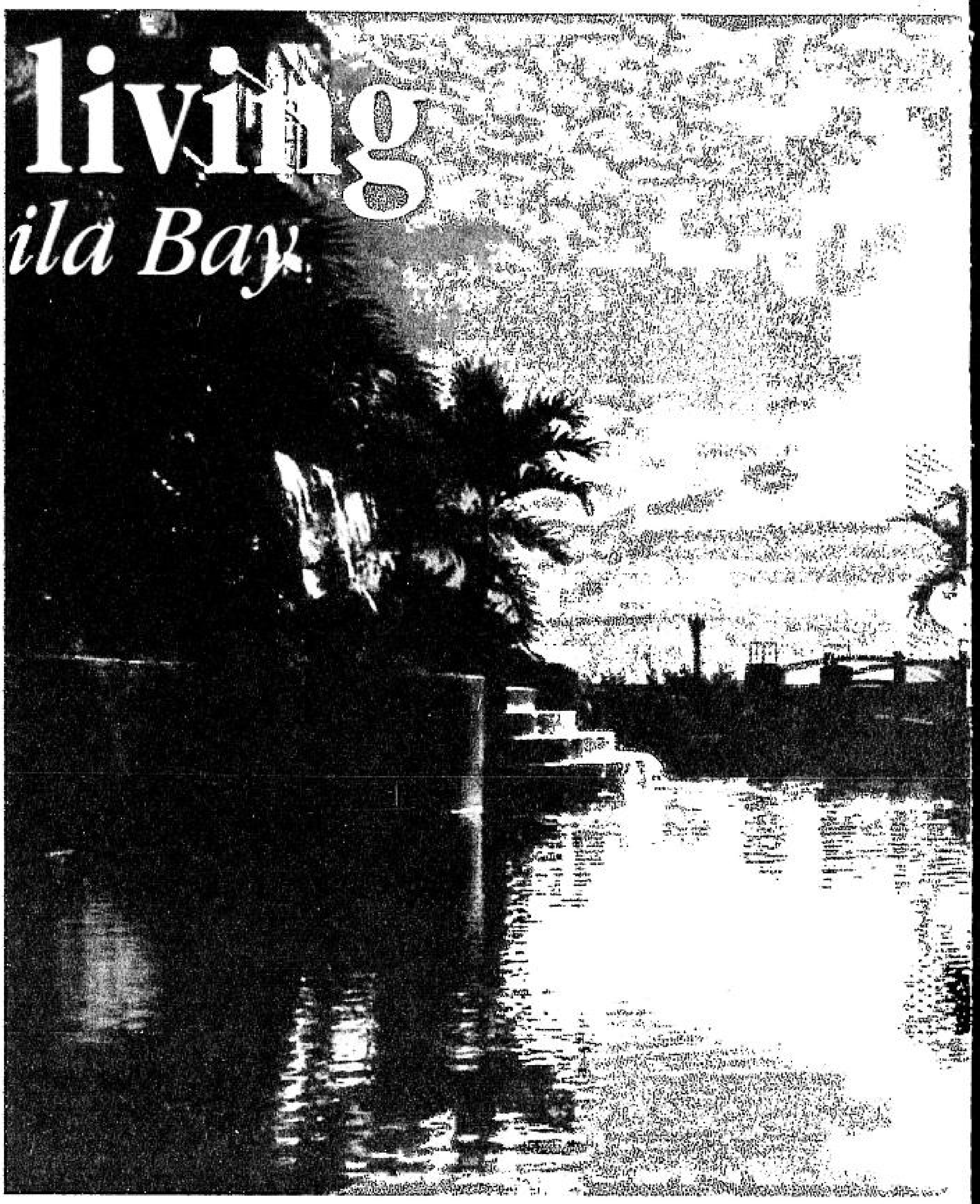
Sunset living at Manila Bay



BAY Gardens' third tower nearing completion stage at Metropolitan Park



WATCHING the sunset at Manila Bay has always been one of the most favored activities of many Filipinos and foreigners alike. The city prides itself for having the most beautiful sunset in the world, which you could see along the stretch of Roxas Boulevard.

But, nowadays that's not the only thing people are doing when they visit the bay. For over a year now, a new subcenter of a fabled metropolis is taking shape on the Manila Bay waterfront. The new premier residential and commercial community.

Inspired by some of the world's successful land reclamation projects, like Singapore's West Coast and Pasir Ris parks and Japan's Minato Minarai 21 (MM21) district, Metropolitan Park is a 40-hectare master-planned community where you will find one of the city's widest and longest highways ever built, the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard. This boulevard features a well-constructed thoroughfare that spans from Buendia Avenue, behind the World Trade Center, all the way to the way to the Coastal Mall/NIA road with further expansion leading to Kawit, Cavite. Road users will find this route more convenient especially those going to the domestic and international Airports, Duty Free and Coastal Highway to the Calabarzon area.

A community of its own

Financial institutions, business headquarters, shopping malls and prime residential high rises have taken root at Metropolitan Park with Federalland Bay Gardens Condominiums, Petron Mega Complex and Le Pavillon at the forefront.

After hosting some of Manila's biggest events, Le Pavillon is fast becoming the premier events place for private functions and public gatherings. Located at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Edsa, it features a grand entrance driveway and a 235-square meter reception lobby. The main tent is fully air-conditioned with over 1,500 sq. m of space that can accommodate some 1,200 persons. Its numerous facilities include a cocktail bar at the reception area; two elegantly appointed private dressing rooms; large capacity male and female air-conditioned rest rooms; executive and handicap-equipped restrooms and spacious parking areas.

Le Pavillon also has an air-conditioned, full-service kitchen with spacious counters and indoor or outdoor sinks; provision for chillers; and an easy access-wide service entrance for a variety of catering equipment. Service personnel are also on-hand to provide assistance and security.

Bay Gardens is a luxurious three-tower residential condominium that enables its inhabitants to experience urban living amid a sprawling natural environment. The three 18-story towers—Boardwalk Bay, Crystal Bay and Anchor Bay—features a variety of one- to three-bedroom units; an indoor fitness gym; basketball half-court and badminton court; a resort-style swimming pool and 15-meter indoor lapping pool; a reliable building management, fire protection and 24-hour security system.

The Petron Mega Plaza is the only gas station in the area with multiple eateries that include Chowking, Pancake House, Treats convenience store as well as Metrobank ATM site. Aside from these Federalland projects, Metropolitan Park will soon
the new Manila Doctor's Ho
biggest mall—courtesy of SM

Metropolitan Park is fast
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Says Federalland FVP for
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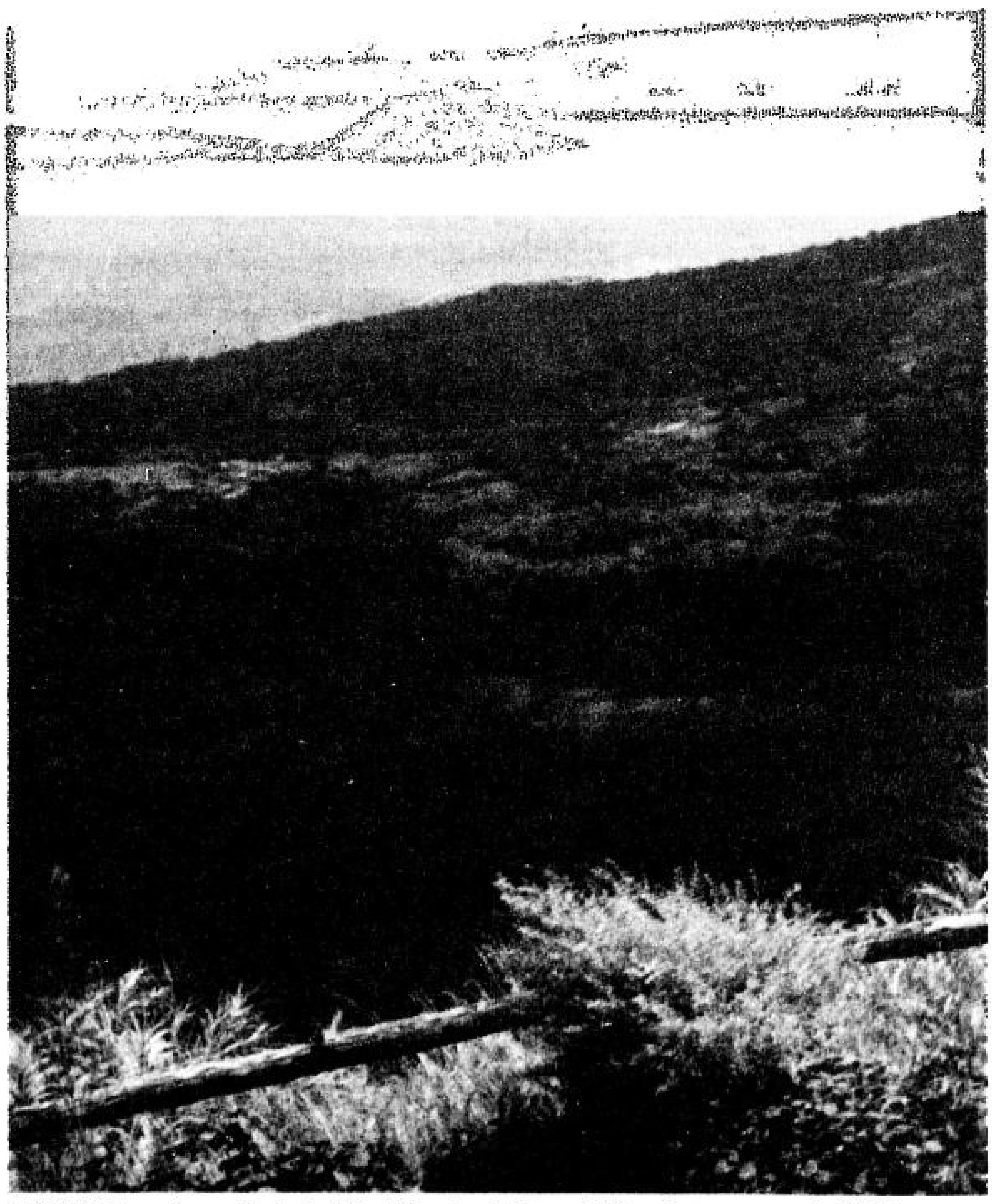
living in condominiums today

Ideal residential farm lots with the best view of Ta

By Charles E. Buban



LOCATED along the gently sloping hills of Tagaytay, Cavite and Talisay, Batangas area, the Taal View Heights Nature Villas is an excellent choice to build one's residential farm lot.

WITH SO many attractive residential farm lots now being developed, how will home buyers know which is the best to invest in?

For those still undecided which one to buy, one property might provide the answer and break the deadlock.

Taal View Heights Nature Villas—a property development located along the gently sloping hills of Tagaytay, Cavite and Talisay, Batangas—offers all the best qualities a residential farm lot should have.

Agri consultants

"First of all, Taal View Heights Nature Villas is blessed with rich, fertile volcanic soil, which is arguably better than the soil in other residential farm lot developments," boasts EVP Rene Ledesma Jr. of Ledesco Development Corp., the property developer.

"One can go there and look at the diversity of fruit-bearing trees that dot the property," he adds.

And since the area has a lot more to offer, Ledesco has signed up several agricultural consultants including Agri-Aqua Network International, Carica Herbal Products, Harbest and Organic Market to further enhance the agricultural possibilities that the property can provide and to help home buyers create their own personalized farm or garden.

"These consultants are readily available to current and potential buyers who may need to 'tailor-fit' their own weekend farms," Ledesma offered.

Easy access

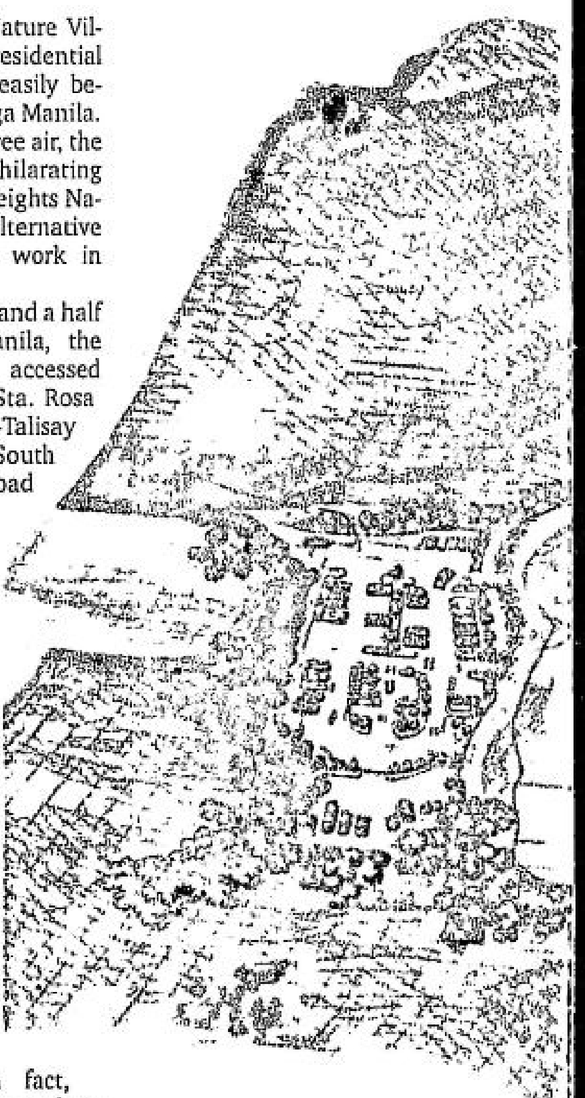
On top of these consultants, the town of Talisay abounds in plant nurseries where lot owners can purchase supplies and materials for their garden at extremely affordable prices.

Taal View Heights Nature Villas can be one's ideal residential home as its area can easily become part of future Mega Manila.

The cool, pollution-free air, the lush forests and the exhilarating view make Taal View Heights Nature Villas a healthier alternative for professionals who work in Metro Manila.

Located just an hour and a half away from Metro Manila, the property is easily accessed through the Tagaytay-Sta. Rosa road or the Tanauan-Talisay national road via the South Tagalog Arterial Road (Star) tollways.

"With the much-improved road networks, going to and from this property is no problem at all," says Ledesma.



Crowning glory

But more than its accessibility, the crowning glory of Taal View Heights Nature Villas is something that other developments may not offer: the breathtaking view of Taal Lake and its famous volcano.

Says Ledesma: "In fact, don't think of us as merely a weekend farming home. Unlike other residential farming developments which only offer farming possibilities, think of Taal View Heights Nature Villas as a nature sanctuary."

Ledesma shares that some of their buyers even want to create Zen meditation gardens, others want ornamental gardens or herb gardens or bonsai gardens.

Invitation

"The possibilities are only limited by your imagination and one can enjoy this personal nature sanctuary while taking in the view of Taal Lake and the volcano," he adds.

Ledesma is inviting prospective home buyers to drop by the property and enjoy the activities they prepared.

"When you get there, you'll be welcomed with fresh *buko* juice, followed by a horse-driven tour around the property, see the multitude of sample farms in our display area, and finally marvel at the view," promises Ledesma.

Automatic membership

Ledesco Development also teamed up with Metro Adventure and Recreation Club for the supervision of the outdoor activities like rappelling, wall climbing, rope as-

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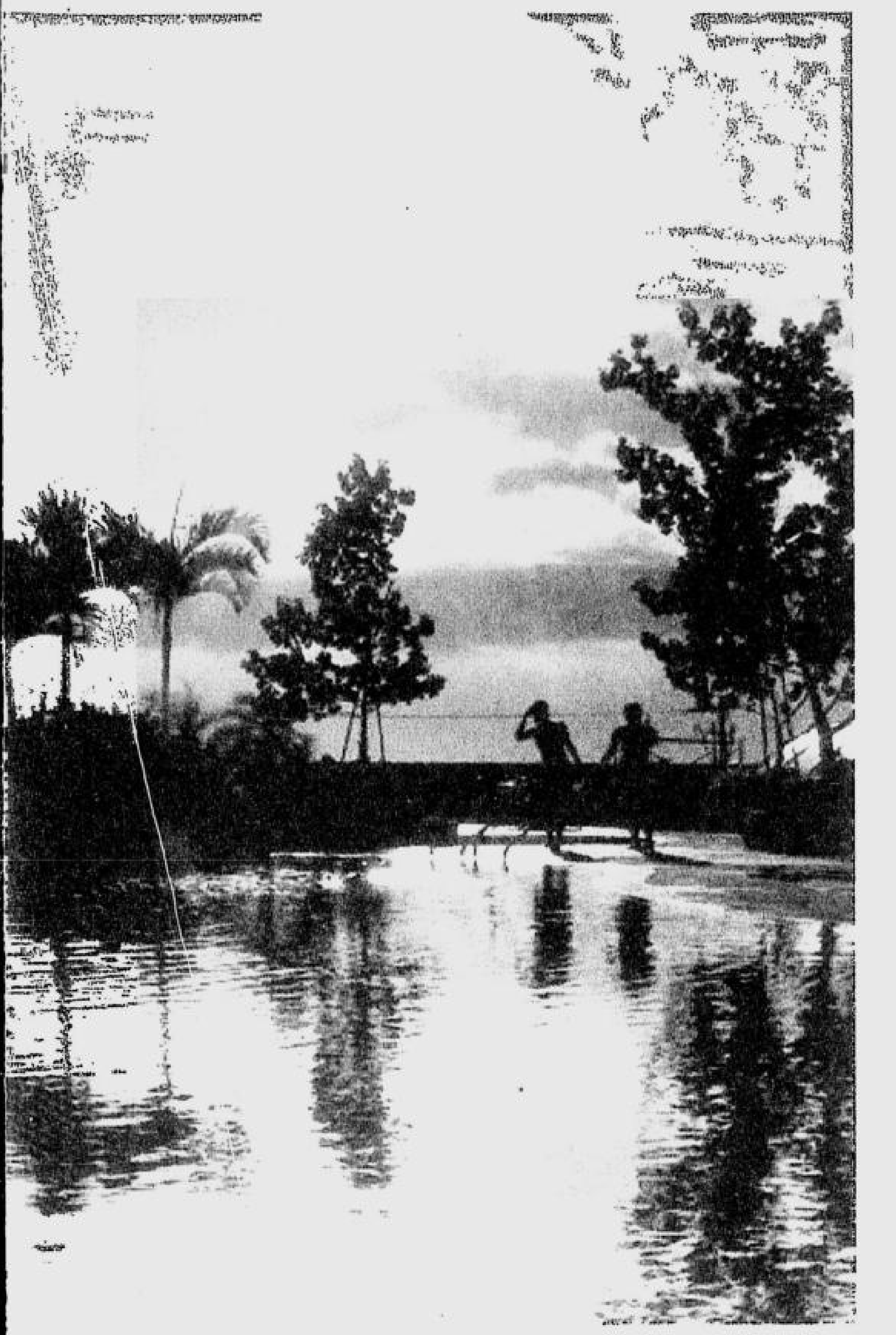

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WHAT an impressive view of the sunset at the Bay Gardens poolside! Bay Gardens is a luxurious three-tower residential condominium.

Where to get design ideas for your home

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

BUILDING DREAMS

IF YOU are not artistically inclined and you have always wanted to design your own home, you may be wondering how to start and where to get these design ideas. A home starts with a plan and a plan starts with a design concept. If you are dreaming of "designing" your home, this article will guide you through the exciting (and sometimes depressing and confusing) process of getting design ideas for your home.

Design ideas can be picked up from many sources. It can be as formal as getting professional design advice and can be as informal as the detail of a structure within your neighborhood. The many sources of design ideas are:

- **Books**—You can either buy them or borrow them. If you intend to just browse on them, you can go to the architectural library of a university or college and look at their collection of books on house design. Getting access to these school libraries might need the help of a friend who is either a staffer or a student of the school. You can also browse on them at your nearest bookstore although many of these books are tightly wrapped in plastic.

The important thing to remember is that you should identify the features that you would want in your home. These can be a certain color scheme, a specific material for the bathroom, a kitchen layout or simply a specific kind of plant in the garden.

If you would want to make a compilation, there are many design books that you can purchase from bookstores. Planning a home can take months or even years so it may be a good idea to collect the books that appeal to you.

- **Magazines**—There are many home design magazines that are available at bookstores and magazine stands. These include special interest publications in architecture, landscaping, furniture, home accessories, vacation homes and the like. These publications also have feature articles on specific homes that have been recently built.

Some magazines even offer floor plans that can fit specific lot dimensions. One major drawback of floor plans from imported magazines is that they have to be reconfigured to accommodate the Filipino lifestyle. The service kitchen (what we commonly term the dirty kitchen) is nonexistent in the western home. The servants and drivers quarters also have to be integrated into the Filipino home.

Remember that floor plans off the pages of books and magazines serve only as a guide. These plans have to be redone by a design professional.

- **Newspapers**—Newspapers are a constant source of design ideas. In this newspaper alone, the real estate section offers information and advice on housing, real estate and construction. The lifestyle section has an abundant list of articles on home styles, getaways, resorts and restaurants in which the design ideas that you can choose are endless.

Advertisements of developers and product suppliers also are a source of design ideas. New technologies in construction materials and processes may even help you reduce the cost of your home.

- **The neighborhood and its surroundings**—A stroll around your neighborhood can expose you to a lot of house designs. You can observe the combination of colors, the landscaping, the house theme and again, you will never run out of design ideas. The only problem is you can only see the exterior part but never get to see how the interior is done.

- **Trade shows**—These expose you to many ideas and types of new materials that are out in the market. These trade shows include a construction show, furniture show, home and garden show. Check out the newspaper and lifestyle magazines for the schedule of these shows. In visiting these shows, pick up as many brochures and information that you can get and compile them. You'll never know when you will need them.

- **Suppliers**—Material suppliers have detailed brochures on how their home products are used. These brochures show a lot of details that you may wish to be a part of your home. Suppliers these days are clustered in one area and you can easily spend a day looking at all the possibilities that you can do with your home.

- **Websites**—There are many sites at the web wherein you can get ideas on how to conceptualize your home. Try using a search engine on home design and for sure you will be able to access hundreds of sites giving you ideas on design, decoration, landscaping, construction and the like.

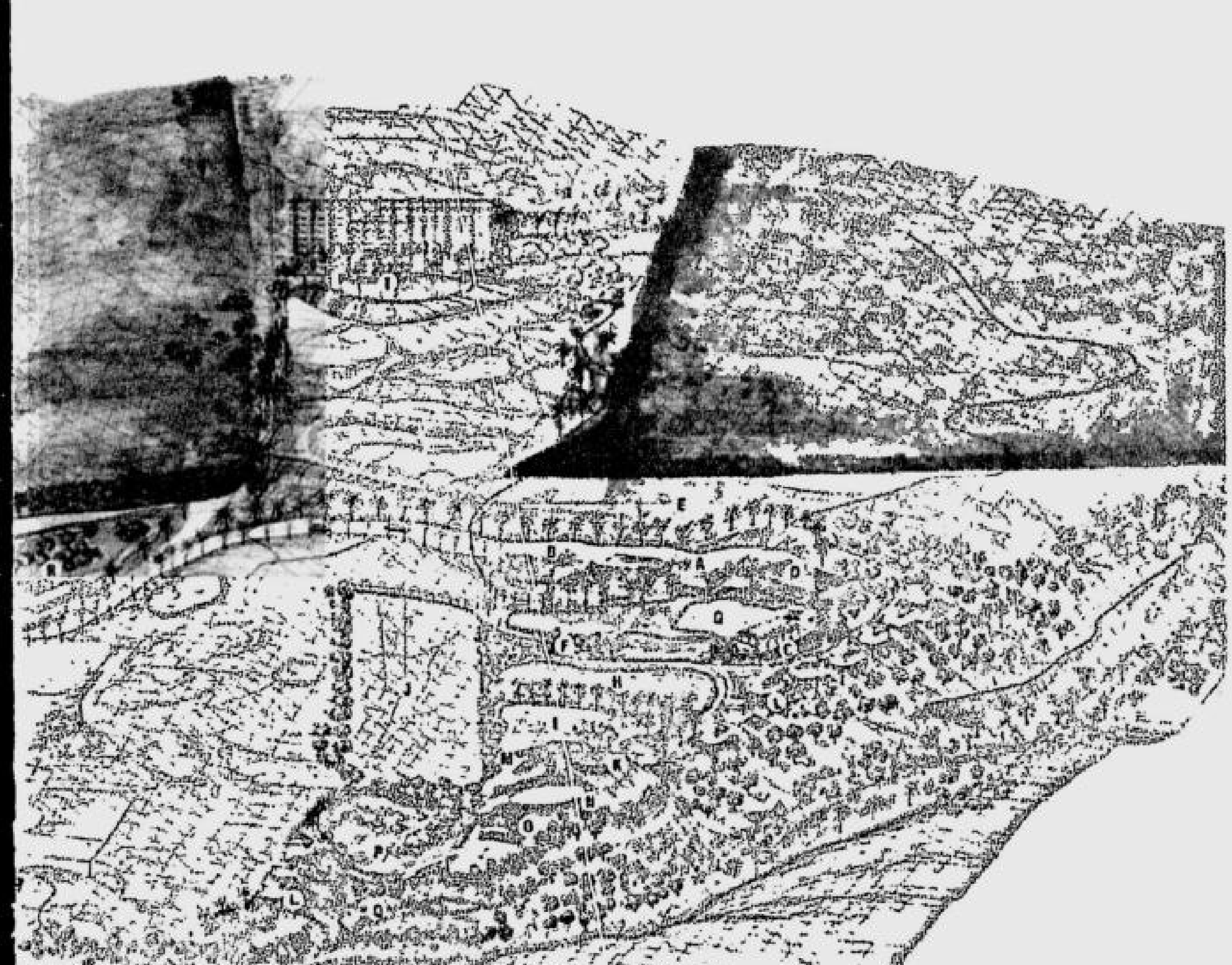
- **Open houses**—Many developers have fully furnished model homes where you can get design ideas. These are designed and decorated by well-known design professionals in the industry. I have friends who visited model homes to get ideas but ended up buying a property at the location that they visited.

- **Design professionals**—No amount of information that you can get from books, magazines, newspapers, websites, trade shows, open houses, etc. will ever substitute for the assessment, opinion and creativity of a competent design team of professionals. You may show the pictures and brochures that you have clipped from other sources so that your home design professional will better understand the design that you want to be incorporated in your home. Home design professionals consist of architects and engineers who will make sure that you have a safe, functional and beautiful home that will fit your budget.

So when the time comes for you to design your home, it is best that you consult with a designer of your choice.

(Alexis A. Acacio is an associate professor of civil engineering at the University of the Philippines. For comments and advice you may reach him at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph or call 952 0684.)

al Lake and Volcano



AN ARTIST'S rendition of the Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club and Taal View Heights Nature Villas gives one an idea of how varied and extensive this latest project of Ledesco Development Corp. is.

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Tagaytay and Talisay area, Ledesco Development has a track record of fully completed residential developments.

The firm has developed residential and resort-oriented community developments in key urban areas around the country.

Ledesco's projects include Guadalupe Villages in Davao City, Davao; Ledesco Villages in Iloilo City; and Makiling Heights in Los Baños, Laguna.

Says Consul Rene Locsin Ledesma, CEO of Ledesco Development: "All our previous and current residential communities were developed with the aim of creating affordable homes for the discerning middle income to upper middle income homebuyers."

"Our clients are looking for communities that not only provide good value for their money but also are ideal places to live in and raise families," he adds.

The affordable prices of Ledesco Development projects clearly outlines its commitment of "making tomorrow's best real estare investments available today," its corporate philosophy.

Global firms expand plants in RP industrial parks

THE COMPETITIVE advantage of the Philippines as a Southeast Asian manufacturing hub is once again being highlighted among particular global markets as China's attractions dim in the wake of the SARS crisis.

According to data from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) which supervises privately owned industrial parks in the country, economic zone exports grew by 9.27 percent to P5.603 billion in the first quarter of 2003 as against the 2002 figure covering the same period. Peza director general Lilia de Lima observes that many global manufacturing concerns in the country expanded their operations in the recent past—"with expansions definitely outnumbering departures."

Along with other industry observers, De Lima surmises that the attractions of industrial parks in the Philippines were most likely enhanced in the past year by the decline in popularity of China, following its handling of the SARS threat.

The observation is further supported by a 19.65-percent growth in economic employment which registered at 839,785 in the first quarter of 2003 in comparison to the first quarter figure of 2002, according to Peza figures. De Lima says Filipino workers have consistently been cited as a distinct advantage of the Philippines given their ability to speak English and learn new technology in less weeks than the average period.

Ma. Victoria Añonuevo, president of Laguna Technopark Inc. in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, which hosts Honda, Henkel and other global names, discloses that despite general declines in economic zone investments in 2001 and 2002, the company continues to sell lots and lease standard LTI factory sites to global manufacturers. "We are seeing increased activity in this sector and continue to entertain inquiries from local and foreign manufacturers." The LTI has in fact opened a new phase with lots ranging from 6,170 to 8,335 square meters, she relates.

More significantly, Añonuevo discloses that in 2003, large electronic companies, among other firms, garnered approvals from Peza for expansion plans in the LTI that totaled P272 million as of end-May. In 2002, she said the expansion projects of LTI locators amounted to P2.5 billion with Honda Parts Manufacturing Co. being the most visible.

LTI head of operations Lyle Abadia explains that large companies such as Matsushita, Toshiba and Isuzu—all of which have manufacturing plants there—tended to attract their subcontractors to the same location. "It is simply more convenient for a supplier of, say, Panasonic, to be within the same industrial park. It means less travel time and lower costs," he notes.

The LTI has attracted local and global industries from cutting-edge electronic manufacturers to pharmaceuticals and auto manufacturers because of its support facilities. These include highway-grade concrete roads, digital communication facilities, high voltage power facilities and a centralized sewerage system. Its flat terrain, efficient drainage and soil stability make it an ideal plant location. In addition, the LTI is conveniently accessible to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the two international seaports of Metro Manila and Batangas.

According to Abadia, locators have also been attracted by LTI's standard factory buildings with production areas of about 1,000 sq. m. which have allowed them the convenience of a smooth start-up. Designed for maximum space flexibility, the reinforced concrete and steel structures have clearly demarcated office and production areas as well as high ceilings.

Laguna Technopark is a joint venture of three respected names in Asian business: Ayala Land Inc., Mitsubishi Corp. and JPE Steel Corp. (formerly Kawasaki Steel Corp.) ALI is the largest property developer in the Philippines, while Mitsubishi is a well-established Japanese trading company operating in major capitals of the world. JPE Steel is one of Japan's largest integrated steel manufacturers with a track record in developing industrial parks.

LAGUNA Technopark reports that its locators accounted for expansion projects amounting to P2.5 billion in 2002.

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NEIGHBORLINESS AT FERNDALE HOMES
There's a peaceful and charming residential community right at the heart of Quezon City where neighborliness is encouraged. The American-inspired concept of Ferndale Homes offers single-detached homes with enough private space while providing easy access to next-door neighbor at the same time. Ferndale's "no-fences" setting also encourages more interaction among homeowners.

Philippines also exporting world-class bathroom fixtures

By Charles E. Buban

DO you know that the Philippines delivers some 1.5 million bathroom fixtures to more than 20 countries around the world?

From its state-of-the-art production facility in Cavite, Hocheng Philippines Corp. manufactures and distributes HCG brand of bathroom fixtures to the United States, countries in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

The HPC export reached P1.1 billion last year.

"This only shows that Filipinos can do it and employing state-of-the-art European technology we can compete with the best of the world," said HPC vice president Steve Chien.

HCG bathroom fixtures are produced in the company's 10-hectare production facility at First Cavite Industrial Estate that has an annual rated capacity of 840,000 units.

Bathroom lineup

A pioneer in the one-stop package concept, HCG offers a complete and impressive line of bathroom fixtures.

"The one-stop concept allows customers the luxury to avail of complete product combinations all in a single package. This eliminates the hassle of matching and shopping separately for your bathroom fixture needs," said Sam Lu, HPC AVP for sales and marketing.

The one-stop package includes the water closet, lavatory with fittings, faucet, soap and paper holder.

The HCG also incorporates its InnoGlaze technology in its manufacturing process, thereby ensuring the anti-dirt and anti-bacterial properties of its bathroom fixture.

Provider for major properties

Not only has HCG revolutionized home bathroom fixtures, it has also made its mark as the most sought-after provider of sanitary wares for the institutional clientele.

HCG's Legato Series of bathroom fixture has furnished upscale properties like the Ayala Greenbelt Residences and the Ayala Greenbelt commercial complex, Aspen Towers and Palms County Club in Alabang, Bay Gardens on Roxas Boulevard, Ayala Montgomery in Quezon City, Valencia Hills in San Juan, Brent International School in Laguna and Club Panoly Resort in Boracay.

Improving export sales

The HPC has combined European design and American functionality with Filipino craftsmanship to create products that have a worldwide appeal," Chien said.

He disclosed that the company's annual export sales improved to an average of 24 percent.

Chien noted that domestic sales expanded nearly six times in four years from sales of P69.8 million during its first full year of operations in 1998 to P356.1 million last year.

To respond to the growing demand for its products here and abroad, the HPC has increased its employment to 650 highly skilled workers last year.

The HPC was recently awarded the ISO 9001:2000 certification in recognition of its quality products that met international standards.

Founded in 1931

Founded in 1931 by industrialist Hocheng Chiu in Taiwan, the company became famous as a ceramic manufacturer.

HCG Taiwan partnered with Filipino-owned property giant Filinvest Corp. in 1995 to build and operate the largest manufacturing facility of bathroom fixtures in the country through an initial investment of $45 million.

Committed to the highest quality standards, HCG was awarded the International Standards Organization (ISO) 9001:2000 Certification, the Philippine Standard Quality Certification (PS Mark), American National Standards Institute (Ansi) Certification and the Korean Standard (KS) Certification.

Quality education within reach at Ayala Westgrove Heights

RESIDENTS of Ayala Westgrove Heights can now take advantage of good quality education for their children following the recent launch of the newly built De La Salle University-Canlubang in Biñan, Laguna.

The 51-hectare campus, situated near Ayala Westgrove Heights, started imparting the DLSU system to about 250 enrollees when it officially opened last month.

First to offer

DLSU-Canlubang is first to offer a science and technology-oriented curriculum. It offers courses in Computer Science, Information management, BS Electronics, Communications Engineering and BS in Business Administration (Management and Technopreneurship). It also provides state-of-the-art laboratories for Graphics, Electronics and Robotics. For high school and grade school levels, the curriculum focuses on developing scientifically literate students. Teaching and research capabilities are at par with international educational standards as it receives valued training support from its partners in Taiwan, Korea and Japan.

DLSU-Canlubang joins the roster of prestigious learning institutions like Scholastica's College and Don Bosco School in what could be an educational hub within proximity to Ayala Westgrove Heights. Dr. Arnulfo Azcarraga, executive vice president of DLSU-Canlubang, puts it: "The site of the campus is perfect because it is conducive to learning. It is not polluted, cleaner and surrounded by decent residential communities."

Ecological facets

Ayala Westgrove Heights is the only residential community that preserves ecological facets within its property as seen in its rolling terrain that displays lush greenery, lots of mango trees and its rich flora and fauna. Residents here are not just afforded high-end living in a natural setting but now, a conducive learning environment for their children.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Corazon Aquino and other luminaries in government and private sectors such as Secretary Alberto Romulo, graced the DLSU-Canlubang launch. Coinciding with the event were the launches of the Benigno Aquino Award for Nationalism and the DLSU Bonds; and the oath-taking of incoming chair Rolando Dizon of the Commission on Higher Education.

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LRI BUSINESS PLAZA

Design and lifestyle hub at Bel Air Village

BIRDS of the same feather flock together. How often have you heard that said? Thing is, whenever people say this line, it is spoken in a disparaging manner. Like, a putdown of the people spoken about. But not this time.

No. 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo) at Bel Air Village 2 in Makati City used to be the address of an undistinguished-looking office building. For a long time, it was that way, and nobody minded. It was a busy building where people came and went. But the tides of change inevitably swept into this part of Makati. Today, a three-story edifice with an entirely redesigned frontage and interiors has sprung up on No. 210 Nicanor Garcia St. What's more, even the roster of occupants has undergone a total revamp.

One is not quite prepared for a discovery that is as pleasant and eventful as LRI Business Plaza. A step inside, and one is transported into what is destined to be a design and lifestyle hub in a street that has suddenly become a mecca for seekers of the ultimate and the latest in furniture and furnishings and art design statements. Thus, when the concept of creating this "one-stop" center for art and lifestyle elements was conceived, the response from stellar names in the furniture and arts business is spontaneous.

NO. 210 Nicanor Garcia St. at Bel Air Village 2 in Makati

Today, LRI Business Plaza has seven high-end furniture and furnishings showrooms, 3 art galleries, 3 restaurants/coffee shops, with more eye-catching businesses to open. The building is designed to cater even to commercial offices such as computer shops, dental offices, to leisurely shopping and the sybaritic pleasures of a foot spa. Even regular art exhibits and shows are scheduled at the Art Pavilion on the second floor.

The main showrooms are Luzon Rattan Industries Inc. for fine rattan furniture; Imaje Inc. for bamboo; Diretso Design Furniture, which specializes in contemporary European-style furniture; Masterpiece Furniture & Interior with traditional carved wooden furniture; Artes Muebles Inc. which carries contemporary wood and upholstered furniture; Silahis Arts & Artifacts which offers ethnic arts and artifacts, and CLC Marketing Ventures Corp. with its sleek Anthro Office Systems.

Catering to art patrons and connoisseurs are Ricco-Renzo Galleries, which provides art supplies, paintings and workshops as well as Galerie Astra and Artwalk Gallery, which have fine collections of paintings.

Alliance Francaise will soon offer arts and language courses. Gourmet and gourmand, dining options are Cafe Carusso's Italian dishes, Ricco-Renzo Bistro's European fussioo food and the Olive Kitchen's sandwiches and pastries in its menu.

Limited showrooms and commercial or office spaces for lease are still available. For inquiries, please call 895-772 or 895-5470.

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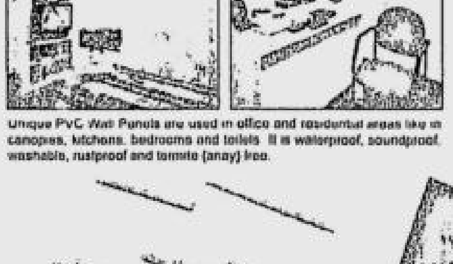
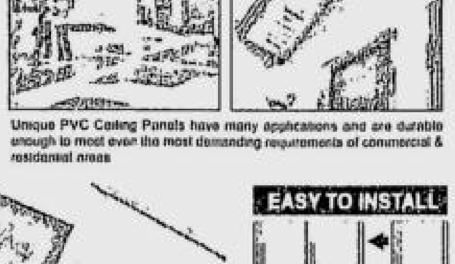
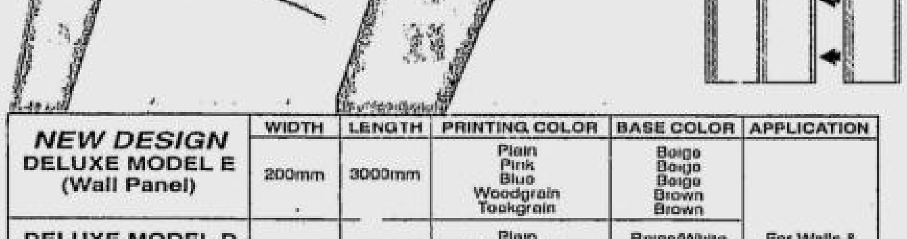


Unique PVC Wall Panels are used in office and residential areas like in canopies, kitchens, bedrooms and toilets. It is waterproof, soundproof, washable, rustproof and termite (anay) free.



Unique PVC Ceiling Panels have many applications and are durable enough to meet even the most demanding requirements of commercial & residential areas



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NEW DESIGN DELUXE MODEL E (Wall Panel)	200mm	3000mm	Plain Pink Blue Woodgrain Teakgrain	Beige Beige Beige Brown Brown	For Walls & Ceilings
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DELUXE MODEL B (Ceiling Panel)			Ivory White Brown	No Printing No Printing	

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Seminar on joint ventures for realty projects

A SEMINAR on joint venture and syndication for real estate projects will be conducted by the Urban Institute of Real Estate on July 15, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive corner Theater Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Topics to be taken up are concepts and types of joint venture (JV) and project syndication; reasons for joint ventures; obligations of landowners; undertakings of the developer; role of the syndicator; lender's role; packaging a JV proposal; the syndication agreement; pertinent laws on JV and syndication; sharing schemes; safety nets for developers; safeguard for landowners; provisions in joint venture contracts; and participation mortgage.

Engineer Enrico Cruz, the main lecturer, is a civil engineer and has more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, real estate development and education.

Cruz placed first in the real estate appraiser's board examinations in 1994 and eighth in the real estate brokers board examination in 1998. He is also a licensed real estate consultant and real estate fellow.

Urban Institute will conduct real estate seminars every Tuesday and Saturday.

Subjects include Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis; Property Development & HLURB Rules with updates; Real Estate Taxation; How to Start Your Own Realty Office; Real Estate Appraisal and Property Management; Documentations, Registration & Legal Aspects of Real Estate; and Real Estate Mathematics for Investors.

Other subjects are Foreclosure; Prevention and Remedies; Committee Course on Installment Sales; What Every Property Lessor Should Know; All You Need To Know Before Buying A Home; Buy It, Fix It, Sell It/Lease It! With Big Profit; Rehabilitation of Failed Real Estate Projects; Complete Guide to Inspecting Property for Sale; Making Big Money in Distressed Properties and Land Development and Construction Financing.

For inquiries, call Urban Institute at 681-0928 or at e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Putting a stop to leaks, drips, cracks

MORE rainy days are ahead, but we need not worry about drips, leaks, cracks and holes. Sealants of all types are readily available to keep ceilings from dripping and pipes from leaking. Check out Handyman and Handyman's Do It Best for a wide and useful array of tools and gadgets that will make your work easier.

Here are some easy-to-do tips to address your most common home problems.

- **Safety first**—Make sure you protect yourself with the proper gear. Grab a raincoat or put on a wide-brimmed hat or bandanna. When working on your roof, get someone to hold and keep the ladder steady for you to avoid slips and falls. There are boots, ponchos, flashlights and more at discounted prices at Handyman and Handyman's Do it Best which are holding a "Rainy Day Sale" from June 27 to July 31.
- **Leaking roofs**—When you're on the roof, walk carefully on strong, steady points. Start by cleaning the area that you will work on. Use a scraper to get rid of stubborn, unwanted particles. Brush off the remaining parts and rust with a sturdy steel brush. Using a stick or a disposable spoon, scoop appropriate portions of your putty on the palette. Mix properly and knead for about one minute until a uniform color and consistency is achieved. Apply the mixture directly to plug holes, cracks and joints. Gently smoothen with damp fingers and apply moderate pressure. Secure the mixture firmly and allow to dry.
- **Leaking faucets**—These are usually caused by loose faucet washers. Solve it by tightening the screw of the washers in the faucet stem with old reliable wrench. If this doesn't work, it's time to replace the old gaskets or corroded valve seats.
- **Caulking**—Rainy days cause water to seep through floor cracks, gaps and joints of windows and doors. Caulk these areas with available sealants that may be easily applied with a caulking gun. Caulking not only prevents water to seep through, but also blocks off moisture and prevents insect infestation, dust and allergen penetration. This likewise helps make efficient use of energy.
- **Loose wooden sidings and trims**—Moisture or "air bubbles" cause sidings and even floor coverings to loosen. Repair these with strong adhesives. Secure them by nailing them firmly in place. If totally damaged by moisture, replace them as soon as possible.

For more of your home improvement needs, visit Handyman and Handyman's Do It Best at its branches in Robinsons malls, Waltermart stores and leading shopping centers nationwide.

Watch out for the opening of their branches in Robinsons Place Dasmariñas-Cavite, Batangas and Angeles and in Waltermart Plaridel-Bulacan.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

The myth of spot reduction

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

REMEMBER the Thigh Master? It was that funny-looking contraption endorsed by Suzanne Somer's of "Three's Company" fame. Thousands of women believed that by squeezing it between their knees, they could remove the fat in their thighs.

What about the AbFlex? To refresh your memory, that was the Star Trek plastic look alike that promised to make your love handles vanish by using it for a few minutes a day.

The Thigh Master and AbFlex have had their 15 minutes of fame and are now gathering dust in countless closets, but every year they are replaced by similar gadgets with new names. The reason there will always be a market for these types of fitness products is because many people believe that if they do exercises for a specific body part, the fat in that area will be reduced. This is what is known as spot reduction.

On the surface, spot reduction sounds logical, and this is probably why this myth has survived so long. If you want flat abs, do abdominal exercises. If you want slim arms, do arm exercises. If you want skinny thighs, work out your legs. But as many frustrated exercisers have discovered, spot reduction does not always work. Despite hundreds of tricep kickbacks, they still have fatty arms. Even if they do half an hour of crunches a day, they still have a jiggly belly.

The truth is specific localized exercises like leg lifts and ab crunches will make the muscles being exercised stronger, firmer and harder, and if you lift weights heavy enough, even bigger. But the fat in that area will not necessarily become smaller.

A 1971 experiment done on tennis players showed that the athletes had approximately the same amount of fat in their dominant and non-dominant arm. The muscles in the arm they used the most were bigger and stronger but the fat was the same in both arms. If spot reduction was possible, then the dominant arm should have less fat than the non-dominant arm.

Significant change

There are a few reasons spot reduction is a myth. One, spot exercises by themselves do not burn enough calories to make a dent in fat loss. So, if all you are doing to achieve your goal of a flat stomach is hundreds of crunches a day, you will get strong hard abdominal muscles but you may still have a sizable chunk of belly fat.

To see a significant change in your appearance, you have to burn a considerable number of calories (3,500 calories for one pound of fat), and spot exercises alone are not going to do it. Spot exercises should be part of a total program to reduce body fat—aerobic exercise, resistance training, a sensible diet and an active daily lifestyle.

Aerobic exercise is any kind of exercise that uses large muscles of the body in a continuous rhythmic manner like walking, running, cycling or aerobic classes. Resistance training is exercise using some kind of resistance like weights, rubber bands or body weight. Examples of body weight exercises are those done in yoga and Pilates.

Spot reduction theory

The second reason spot reduction doesn't work is that even if you could burn the appropriate number of calories by doing spot exercises for your "problem" area, you have no control over where your fat will be burned.

In a 1984 study conducted at the University of Massachusetts, male participants did the equivalent of 5,000 sit-ups for 27 days. Fat was measured in the abdomen, buttocks and upper back. According to the spot reduction theory, fat should have been reduced only in the abdominal area because the buttocks and upper back are not actively involved in doing a sit-up. Researchers found that fat was reduced in all three areas.

It would be nice to lose fat only from our "problem" areas, but it doesn't work that way.

Whether we like it or not, our bodies respond to fat loss or gain in different ways depending on our gender, age and genetic make-up. In general, men usually store fat in the mid-section while women tend to store fat in their hips, buttocks and thighs, although some women have apple-shaped bodies (more fat in the trunk and arms compared to the legs) and a few men are pear-shaped (more fat in the lower abdomen and buttocks).

First on, last off

You will lose fat in the reverse order that you tend to gain it. This is called the "first on, last off" theory. If you are the type who gets fat in the lower abdomen or *puson* when you gain weight, then that is usually the last place the fat will disappear from when you lose weight.

Young people can usually lose weight and still look baby-faced while middle-aged men and women end up with gaunt haggard faces when they lose the same amount of weight.

Women of Hispanic, Mediterranean or Indian descent usually store fat in the hips and thighs while women of Asian descent tend to store fat in their arms, waist and lower abdomen.

It is usually easier for men and women to lose fat from the abdominal area than it is for women to lose fat from the hips, buttocks and thighs. Scientists believe the reason hip and thigh fat is so stubborn has something to do with the reproductive process. Estrogen multiplies fat-storing enzymes and directs fat to be stored in the lower body. Fat cells in that area contain more alpha or fat storing receptors while fat cells in the abdominal area contain more beta or fat releasing receptors.

Pear-shaped women

This can be very frustrating for a pear-shaped woman because when she exercises and/or diets, she loses fat from her upper body at a faster rate than she does from her lower body. This means that even if she loses weight, her basic pear shape does not change that much.

A Syracuse University study found that apple-shaped women lost fat mostly in the chest and abdomen so they looked different after losing weight. The pear-shaped women lost fat in both their upper and lower body so they maintained their basic shape even when they became smaller. Head researcher Thomas Wadden observed that "weight loss is often not as noticeable in pear-shaped women because their hips and thighs still look heavy compared to their waists and chest." He said that pear-shaped women go from being large pears when they are overweight to being small pears when they lose weight.

> Even if you could burn calories through spot exercises, you have no control over where your fat will be burned

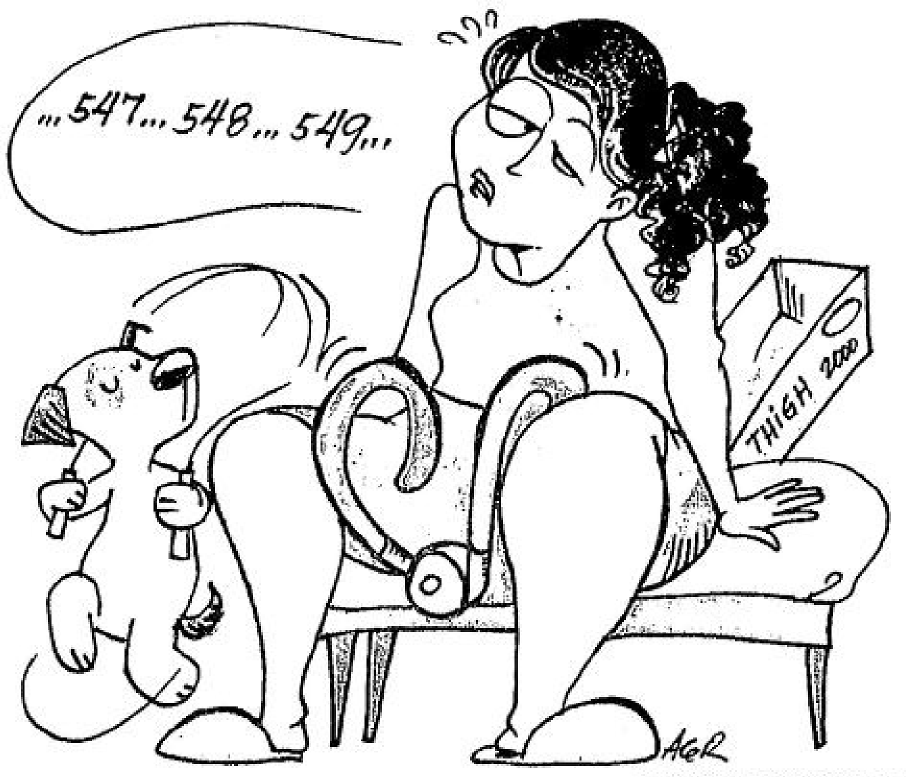

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

In a 2000 study, female participants went through a six-month exercise program composed of military drills, running and weight-training exercises like the squat and bench press, which use a combination of muscles. The women did not do any spot exercises like bicep curls, tricep kickbacks or abdominal crunches. Researchers wanted to find out what part of the body the women would lose fat from.

The result was that the women lost an average of 5.7 pounds of fat, 2.9 pounds came from the trunk and 2.8 pounds from the arms. They lost practically no fat in the legs despite of all the running they were doing. The research team came to this conclusion: Men lose fat first from their trunks, then their arms and lastly their legs. Women lose fat first in their arms, then their trunks and then their legs.

After all this depressing news, you may be wondering if there is any hope of getting rid of your trouble areas or changing your body shape. Cheer up, it's not all doom and gloom but you have to be realistic about your expectations otherwise you will be disappointed. Here are some things to keep in mind.

Comprehensive program

To lose fat in a particular part of the body, say the abdomen or the thighs, overall body fat must be reduced. So make sure to do a comprehensive fat-reducing program that includes aerobic exercise, a resistance training program of some kind, eating properly to control unnecessary calories, and being as active as you possibly can in your daily life.

You will lose fat from all over your body but unfortunately, you won't lose it equally. You have to accept that you will lose fat faster from some parts of your body compared to the other parts. You have to be patient about getting the results you want especially if you are a pear-shaped woman because hip and thigh fat is wickedly stubborn.

You also have to accept that even if you are slim and toned, it is possible to have a small version of saddlebags, love handles, spare tire, lower belly pouch or fatty arms. No one knows why the body hangs on to these isolated pockets of fat even when it is at a normal weight and body fat percentage, but it may be a built-in survival mechanism similar to a camel's hump. To make these pockets of fat completely disappear, you usually have to lose so much weight that the rest of your body will look skeletal.

This is not a healthy thing to do at any age, but aesthetically speaking, you can get away with this when you are in your 20s since your face will probably retain some of its fat. However, don't try this if you are in your 30s and beyond because your face will show the suffering you are going through just to have a "perfect" body.

It would be wonderful if we could remove fat only from the areas where we have too much and put on fat in parts of our body that have too little. Then we would all have symmetrically shaped bodies. Unfortunately, we can't control where we lose or store our fat. I know that's a bitter pill to swallow but your body has been genetically programmed to respond that way. What can you realistically do about it?

Liposuction is a true spot reduction method that will permanently remove fat pockets but it is a method that has been known to boomerang and backfire. New pockets of fat sometimes pop up in the strangest of places. I have seen women who have developed fatty knees, ankles and pubic mounds when prior to the liposuction these areas were free from excess fat. Anyone considering this method of spot reduction should weigh the benefit with possible side-effects.

You can change the shape of your body by building up the areas that are smaller to balance out the areas that are bigger. Muscles can be "spot built" if you lift the appropriate amount of weights. So pear-shaped women can develop the muscles of their upper body to balance out their more voluptuous lower body. Apple-shaped people can develop their leg muscles so they look more symmetrical. The ease with which a person can build their muscles is also influenced to some extent by genetics and gender (women don't put on as much muscle mass as men), but it is more under your control than the spot reduction of fat is.

The bottom line is that unless further research proves otherwise, spot reduction is a myth and you cannot force your body to give up some of its lumps and bumps even if you are already slim and fit.

For past articles and exercises or suggestions for future columns, please go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

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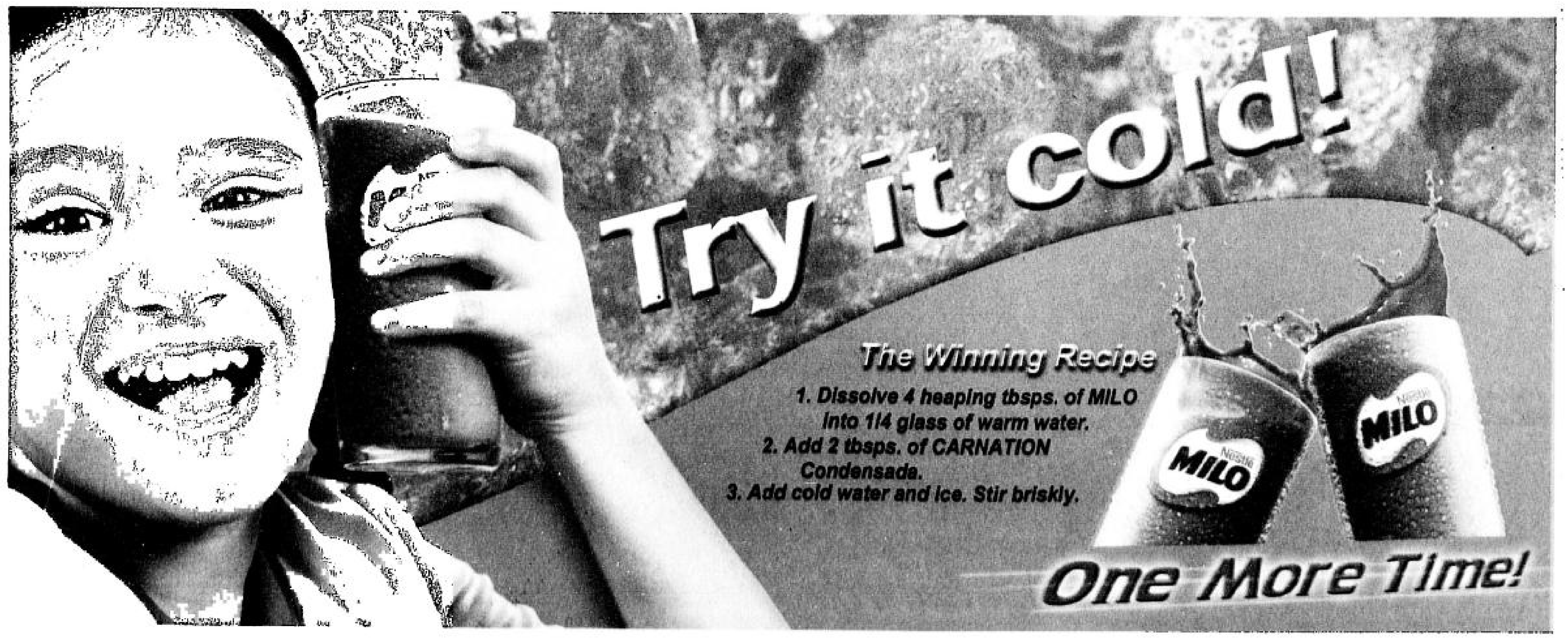
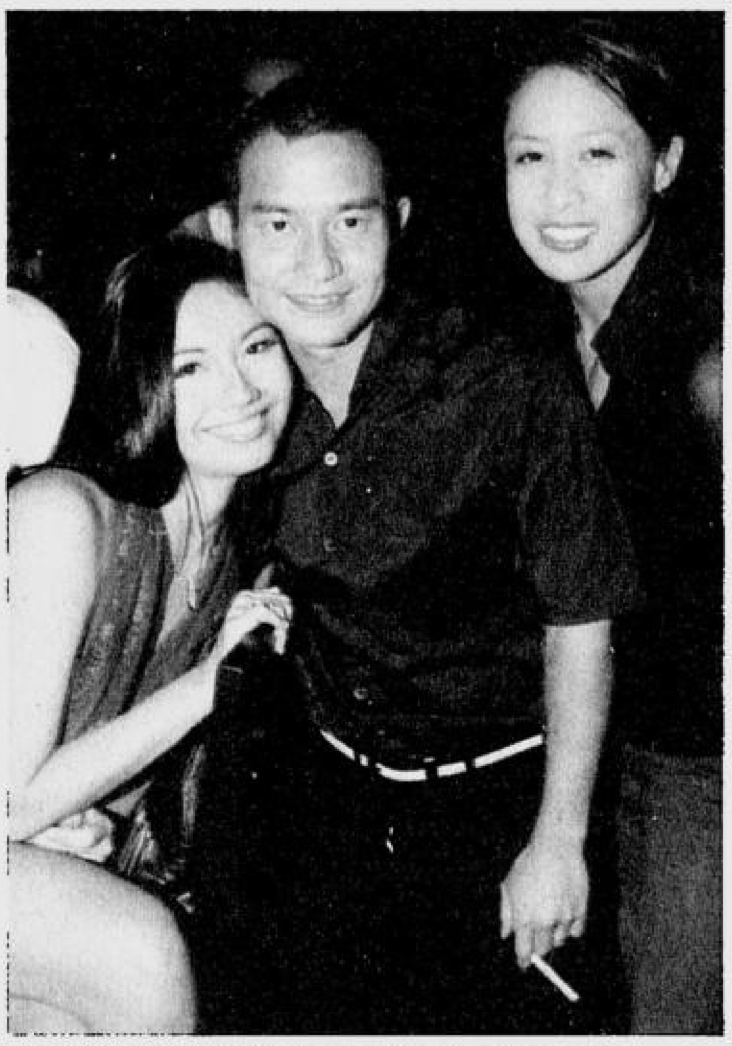


The Winning Recipe
1. Dissolve 4 heaping tbsps. of MILO into 1/4 glass of warm water.
2. Add 2 tbsps. of CARNATION Condensada.
3. Add cold water and ice. Stir briskly.



BACK IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS: Victoria London and Joel Tantoco, with Mabel de Leon

THE GANG OF 4: Francisco Delgado and sister Ines with Patrick Reyno and Lia Infante

LOREAL'S Celine Gabriel with cozy twosome Tina Tinio and Lex Ledesma

THE SMILING 3: Kara Tolent
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Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on Kodak Max

COSMO Manille's social pack was all abuzz forming a beeline to Nuvo Restaurant to sample and toast the rich and refined taste of Platinum Vault's rich and famous Patron tequila and the vodka of the hour, Grey Goose ($30 for a dry martini with two olives in New York, dahlings). The hip drink of the year was launched during Platinum Nights at Nuvo, *palanggas*.

Nuvo's royal couple of the night life, **Louie Ysmael** and wife top gourmand **Cecille**, and Platinum Vault's brand manager, the vivacious **Fran Ribano**, welcomed the personas of the fast lane who wasted no time and ordered the classic martinis with a twist from Grey Goose.

Nuvo's executive chef **Martin Bracken** whipped up an array of yummy hors d' oeuvres especially for this all-night happening.

Babes of the moment **Carmina Sanchez**, **Trish Briones**, **Tara Santos**, **Jen Epperson**, **Lia Manuel**, **Bernice Cabunag**, **Dhars Abrazaldo**, the single again "for now" **Annette Coronel**, **Rosanna Escudero**, **Champagne Morales**, **Gig Barte**, **Lilo Gutierrez**, **Mabel de Leon**, **Victoria London** and **Mons Romulo-Tantoco** ecstatically sipped their new-found martinis.

YOUNG, HIP AND FUN. Denise Albert and Corey Wills

The partying Gang of 3, **Dale Villar**, **Imran Azhar** and **Amiel Cabanlig**, debated on which Patron variant was best, and in the end concluded, "Well, we liked them all!"

Naturellement, the Webb clan was there, headed by **Pinky Webb**, newlyweds **Jason Webb** and **Claudine Trillo** and mega couple **Peewee** and **Mabeth Agcaoili**.

Tidal wave of hip

Our town's hip set came in tidal wave force. Heading the pack was **Celine Lopez**; U's hip gentry **Joel Tantoco**; **Jen Epperson**; our Bubble Boy of the hour **Ipe Cruz**, multifaceted persona, architect **Victor Consunji**; PR gentry **Pepper Teehankee**; Philippine Tatler's cool editor **Anton San Diego**; New Yorker and Parisian boy **Patrick Reyno**, plus many others.

These faces are so defining the social scene that you can never call a party a party if they ain't around, dahlings!

Nuvo, being the I-want-to-impress-the-pants-off-my-date venue, was also filled with coosome twosomes: **Denise Albert** and **Corey Wills**, **Robert Dario** and **Saps Uttam**, **Benjie** and **Yvette Sevilla**, and **Christopher** and **Karla Lejeune**.

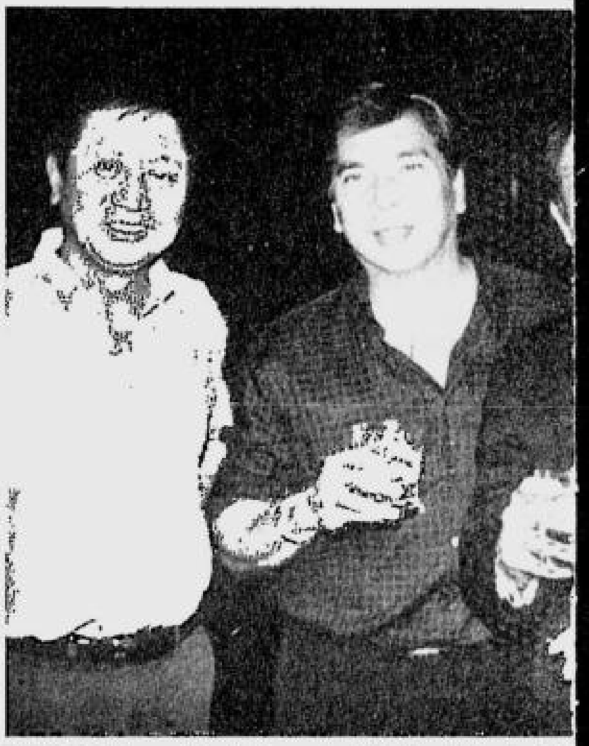
It was hard to miss the smorgasbord of dashing tomcats, the likes of **Bong Daza**, **Vincent Consolacion**, **David Jacob**, **Alan Umali**, **Julian Camacho**, **Elrey Villa Fuerte**, **Bill Dy**, **Toti Cariño**, **Rene Banzon**, **Mike Toledo**, Asian Spirit's **Noel Oñate** and **Tony Herbosa**. They mingled and prowled, which totally amazed Louie Y's hotshot business partners headed by construction magnate **Philip Cruz**, **Chito Melo** and **Jess Medina**, who stood with a generous serving of Patron Anejo in hand.

Under the escalator

While Cosmo Manille is really HOT! by night, *palanggas*, you've got to know when

THE PACK OF FUN BOOZERS. Nuvo's Fran Ribano with Dale Villar, Imran Azhar and Amiel Cabanlig

HOTSHOT business magnates on a big boys' night out: Alan Umali, Freddie Jalasco, Julian Camacho, Elrey Villafuerte, Bill Dy and Fairways and Blue Waters southern sugar baron Toti Cariño



CHITO Melo and Louie Ysmael with Mike Toledo, a fri

THE BEAUTIFUL Lily of the night Wendy Puyat Hotung

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The evidence for alien encounters and abductions

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

A SENSATIONAL major television series about personal alien encounters and abductions hit local cable TV on the first week of July.

Titled "Taken," the 10-part two-hour series is produced by veteran and multi-awarded film maker and director Steven Spielberg, whose previous movies on alien encounters include the unforgettable "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial."

This time, Spielberg tackles the question of human abduction by aliens, the mysterious spacecraft crash at Roswell, New Mexico and its subsequent military cover-up, and the possibility of alien intervention in human affairs, including the origin of crop circles.

The mini-series covers a 50-year saga of three families who were forever affected by their close encounters with the alien creatures. The series can be viewed at Star Movies Cable TV channel that began Sunday, July 6, at 9 p.m.

During the press conference on June 25 at the CCP to introduce the film series, I was one of those invited to act as a panelist to share our views about alien encounters. The other panelists included Star Movies representative Laura Corinjuen, astronomer Elmer Escosa of Pag-asa and production designer and director Don Escudero.

In my brief remarks, I said that I firmly believe in the existence of extra-terrestrial beings and I also believe that some earth people have been abducted or taken by these space creatures for study or experimental purposes.

In fact, I have met at least five persons who have been taken by aliens.

Chariot of God

Throughout the long history of mankind, there have been numerous descriptions of close encounters by humans with alien creatures.

If one reads the account of the prophet Ezekiel in the Bible, he will not fail to notice that what Ezekiel was describing as a chariot of God that descended in front of him could have been an alien spacecraft.

The myths and legends of many ancient civilizations, from Babylon to the Aztecs, tell of close encounters with space beings who taught them the knowledge of the stars, agriculture, mathematics and science.

It is even believed that some of the mysterious structures on earth, such as the Pyramids in Egypt and the Stonehenge in England, were the works of aliens.

Of course, there are those who deny such a theory. But I am inclined to believe the alien visitation theory.

There are numerous stories and witnesses to alien encounters, but for the most part, these are covered up, suppressed, or explained in ways acceptable to conventional thinking.

I related in my remarks that when American astronaut Edgar Mitchell was on board the spaceship Apollo on the way to the moon, he noticed a spacecraft following him. He radioed Nasa to ask if it was one of theirs or the Russians. Nasa said they didn't know and they would check.

When he reached outer space, Mitchell again reported that the spacecraft he saw earlier was still following his spaceship. Nasa said it was neither Russian nor American, but that he should not talk about it to anyone. They censored all radio communications about that incident.

When Mitchell left Nasa, he set up a research organization called the Institute of Noetic Sciences in Sausalito, California, to embark on pioneering research that conventional science refused to study, like UFOs, psychic powers and paranormal phenomena.

"Steven Spielberg," I told the audience at the CCP's Dream Theater, "is a filmmaker whose sci-fi films about alien encounters are more science than fiction. 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' resonates with us from an inner level because we know it is true!"

Local encounters

At the open forum, Niall Phelan of Star Movies in Hong Kong asked what the difference was between alien encounters of Filipinos compared with those in Western countries.

I said there are several significant differences. In the Philippines, there has never been any reported case of cattle mutilation. In the West, there have been a number of them. The theory is that the aliens were experimenting with those animals. No one really knows why it happens.

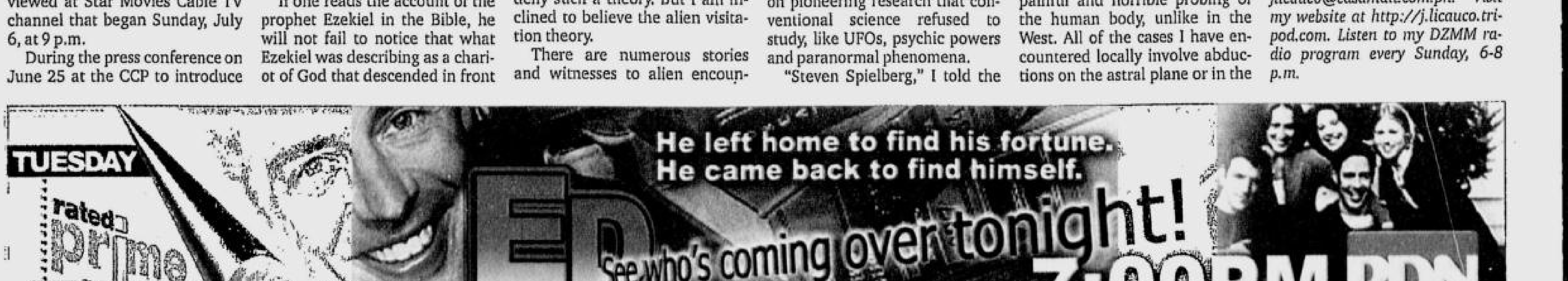
Also, in the Philippines, alien abductions do not involve the painful and horrible probing of the human body, unlike in the West. All of the cases I have encountered locally involve abductions on the astral plane or in the dream state, and not physical abduction.

They are never as scary as the ones occurring in the West, where samples of their blood, hair and even semen have been taken by the aliens. There is also no reported case of Men in Black who would visit alien contactees to warn them not to talk about their encounters with the aliens.

Why this is so, I do not know. Maybe those aliens visiting the Philippines come from galaxies or planetary systems different from those who visit western countries.

We will never know until they finally decide to appear before us physically and talk to us directly, alien to man.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 810-7245 or 892-6806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.


TUESDAY
rated prime nights
He left home to find his fortune.
He came back to find himself.
ED
See who's coming over tonight!
7:00PM
RPN
Coming home is just the beginning.

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no, Chut Cuerva and
no

FITZ and Lily's top gal Jessica Puyat with Tim Yap

THE COOL PACK. Anton San Diego, moi, Pepper Teehankee, Mons Romulo-Tantoco and Bench's gentleman of men Ben Chan

rtini, tequila sunrise and beauty times 10

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Spotting them

At Greenbelt 2 the hottest action was taking place at Restaurant 12, which was raining men of all ages to witness Mega Magazine's 10 Most Beautiful Women. Max's heavyweight **Jim Fuentabella**, architect **Gil Coscolluela**, and free-again **Bacchus Zulueta** were not eyeing any of the 10 beauties, but one was smitten by another separated beauty instead. Favorite of the Beauties was **Tweetie Gonzales.**

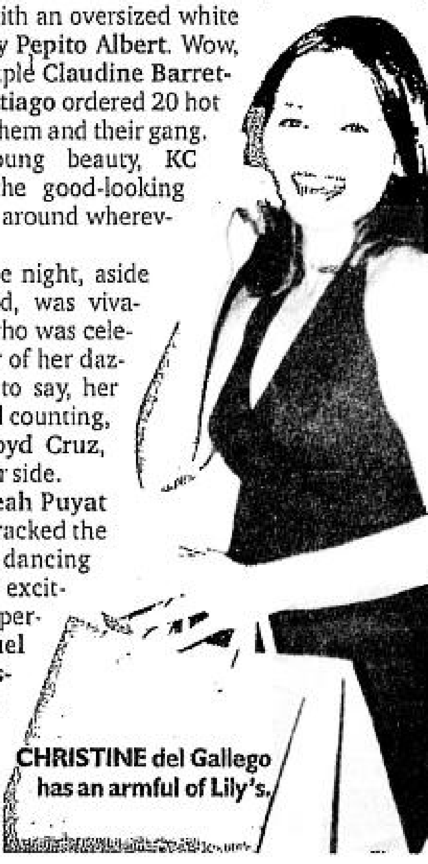
Over at the one-of-a-kind Dish in Rockwell, the world-class Rage band created intensity 10 with their fabulous singing and music. Porcelain beauty and top TV actress **Helen Gamboa** rocked to the tune of the '80s; suave Sen. **Tito Sotto** stomped to the beat, while **Maru** and **Val** opted to people-watch instead.

Heads turned 180 degrees when statuesque, stylish beauty **Patricia Cu-unjieng** made her entrance in a fabi embroidered micro-micro mini, with an oversized white cotton men's shirt by **Pepito Albert**. Wow, beautiful in-love couple **Claudine Barretto** and **Raymart Santiago** ordered 20 hot Blow Job drinks for them and their gang. Another 18-year-young beauty, **KC Concepcion**, had the good-looking dudes following her around wherever she went.

But the star of the night, aside from the Rage band, was vivacious **Ciara Sotto**, who was celebrating another year of her dazzling life. Needless to say, her love of two years and counting, handsome **John Lloyd Cruz**, was constantly by her side.

Pineapple lady **Leah Puyat** was so excited she cracked the stage with her wild dancing and singing "I'm so excited" with Rage superstars **Juan Miguel Salvador** and **Marissa Bunag**. This babe has found a new career and has **E.J. Litton** willing to hire her anytime.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR. Hot twosome David Jacob and Pinky Webb



CHRISTINE del Gallego has an armful of Lily's.

PARTYING pals Bong Daza and Tony Boy Floirendo; (seated) Philip Cruz and Noel Oñate

LILY'S brainy babe Mary Ann Santos

STILL in cloud honeymoon, Christophe and Karla Lejeune

MARTA Tuason Luque

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FRESH as a cool breeze Nikki Revilla

Support group of remarkable patients

THE PROACTIVE Medical Clinic has organized a support group meeting of long-term recovered and short-term recovering patients. Titled "Healing the Heart, Soul and Body," it incorporates healing at all levels of being.

Dr. Omar Arabia, medical director of Proactive Medical Clinic, will present a brief review on increasing the chances of surviving life-threatening diseases.

Joe Mordeno Jr., founder and president of Speech Power, will be the guest speaker.

A plant-based food demo by nutrition expert Suzanne Tabar-Arabia will also be presented.

The clinic has utilized support groups to enhance the healing process.

One of them is Fleeta Errasquin, who underwent surgical removal of her right breast on the advice of her oncologist. When her oncologist could not give the assurance of a long-term cure, she opted for natural medicine. Furthermore, when her mother, whom she took care of for some two years passed away, she went on to pursue an alternative option.

Guided and treated through natural healing methods by Dr. Omar Arabia, Fleeta succeeded in arriving at an integrative management of her breast cancer and has put it under control for nine years now.

Another survivor is Liza Jane Estalilla, who is a documented case of liver cancer. She has also put her condition under control for eight years.

Elsa Añonuevo, a former professor at the University of the Philippines, who suffered from breast cancer, has survived for 17 years.

Another patient, Anita Jimenez, who endured her colostomy bag for two years before it was eventually removed, is now a 10-year recovered cancer patient.

These survivors formally established a support group called Healing Partners Foundation Inc. in 1996.

Together with the Proactive Medical Clinic, the Healing Partners help people survive cancer and other degenerative diseases through support group meetings, counseling and other activities.

Based on the study of Stanford Medical School professor and psycho-oncologist Dr. David Spiegel that there is a positive link between health and social support in patient's lives, the Healing Partners help patients to take charge of their lives and participate in their efforts toward recovery.

"Healing the Heart, Soul and Body" will be held July 12, 1-5 p.m. at 20 F. Collantes St., Xavierville Subd., QC.

Call 426-6363 or 0917-6938695 (Dr. Arabia) or 0917-9845172 (Ching Gutierrez).

SURVIVORS ALL. Anita Jimenez (colon cancer, 10 years); Zita Jimenez; Proactive Medical Clinic president Fleeta Errasquin (breast cancer, 9 years); author Ching Gutierrez; Dr. Omar Arabia and Dr. Elsa Añonuevo (breast cancer, 17 years)

New products to protect your skin from further damage

THE SUN, pollution and an imbalanced diet can cause premature skin aging. As early as your 20s, you may begin to see subtle signs of aging. As you progress into your 30s and 40s, you will certainly witness some radical change that can lead to dry skin and make it susceptible to wrinkles.

Using products that are non-comedogenic or those that don't have acne-producing ingredients and contain antioxidants such as Vitamin C can help repair your skin. Za New York has a line of essential products that can help smoothen, whiten and protect your skin from further damage.

Start off by exfoliating or gently removing dead keratin cells that cause age spots and freckles with Za Metavoltage Cream, which also speeds up the turnover of skin cells and controls the production of melanin.

Then, tone your skin with non-comedogenic Za Whitening Toner with HS Vitamin C. It also whitens existing melanin and inhibits new melanin formation. Za Whitening Essence and Za Whitening Emulsion are perfect in helping your skin retain its natural moisture.

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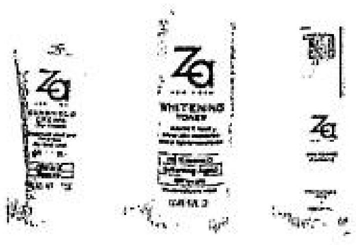

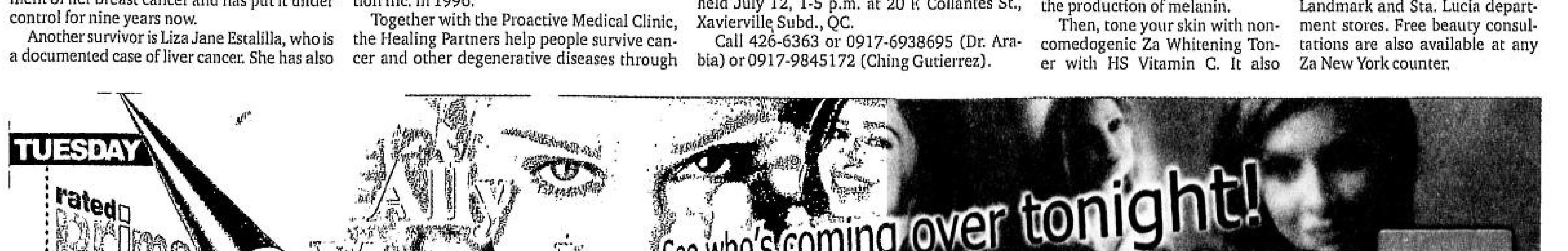

TUESDAY
rated prime nights
RPN
Ally McBeal
See who's coming over tonight!
Law firm comedy, with Ally and her wacky associates.
8:00PM
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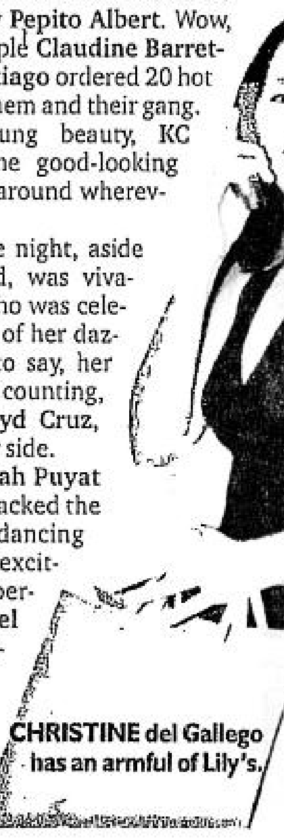

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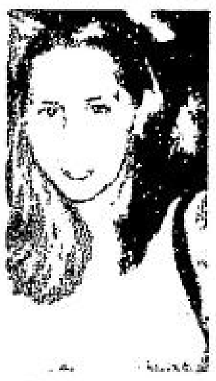

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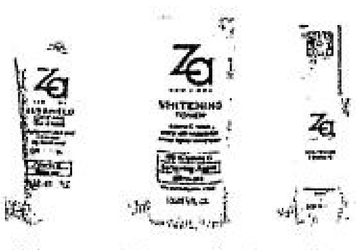

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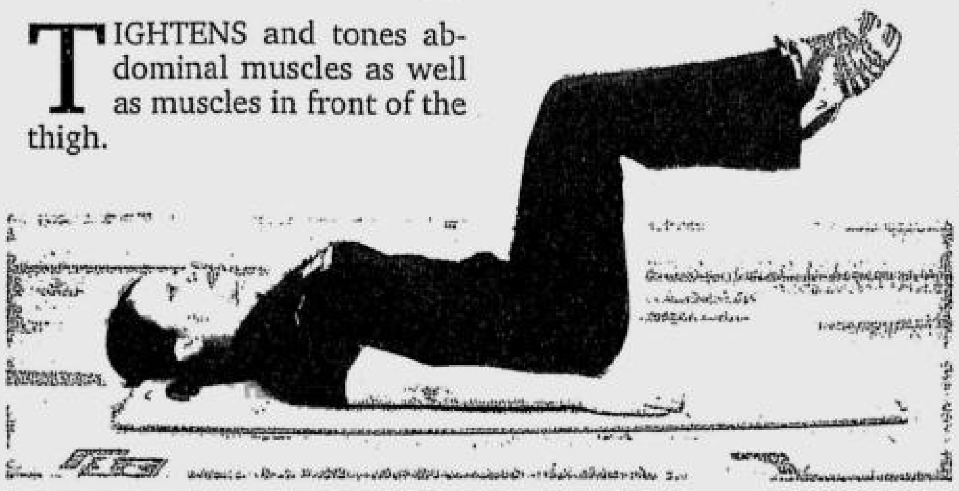
EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Bent double leg lower and raise

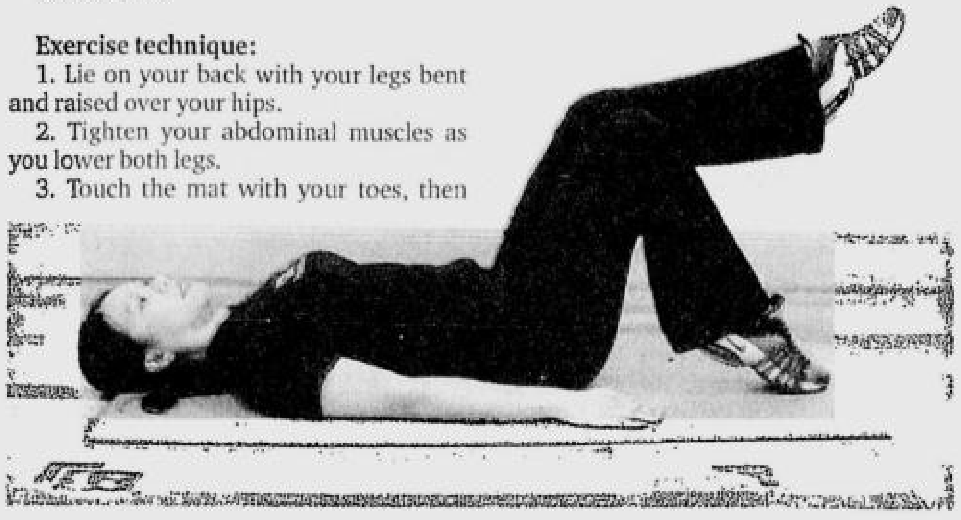
TIGHTENS and tones abdominal muscles as well as muscles in front of the thigh.



Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your back with your legs bent and raised over your hips.
2. Tighten your abdominal muscles as you lower both legs.
3. Touch the mat with your toes, then raise the legs to starting position.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions.



Performance tips:

1. Do not allow your lower back to arch off the floor while you are lowering your legs. Maintain a certain amount of tightness and contraction in your abdominal muscles to prevent your lower back from excessively arching and flattening as you do the exercise.
2. The goal of the exercise is to keep your torso and abdominal muscles stabilized while you lower and raise your legs.
3. Move your legs slowly and deliberately to get the most out of the exercise.
4. Inhale as you lower your legs; exhale as you raise them.
5. You can make this exercise easier by lowering and raising one leg at a time.

Repetitions:
Do 10 repetitions.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

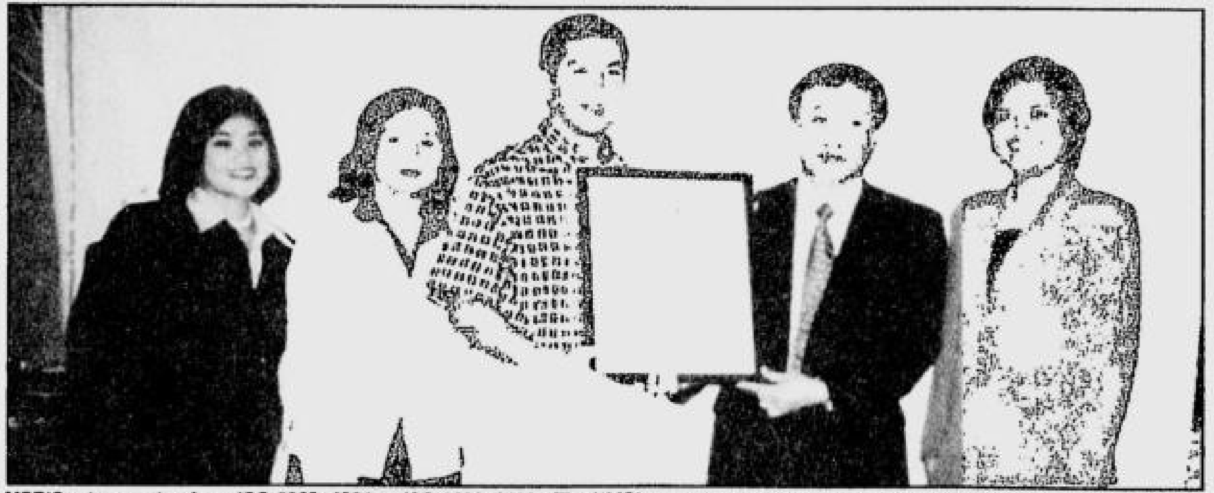
What is the process in applying for an individual or family HMO program?

Fill up the required application forms, make the necessary payments and wait for your membership cards. For enrollees age 41 and above, however, we have to look into their health history. They have to go on a fast and undergo a medical evaluation at our Head Office clinic (with a minimal charge per head). Depending on the medical history and findings on the said medical exam, we may apply limits to the program's coverage.

Meet your MEDICard Team

At St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) in Quezon City, members in need of a Gastroenterologist may visit Dr. John Arnel N. Pangilinan. Dr. John, a Medicine graduate of Perpetual Help Medical College, joined MEDICard in 1997. He took both his residency training for his specialization in Internal Medicine and subspecialization in Gastroenterology at SLMC. He is a Fellow to the Philippine Society of Gastroenterology, the Philippine Society of Digestive Endoscopy and the Philippine College of Physicians. He also finished special training in Biliary Endoscopy and Endoscopic Ultrasound at Tohoku University in Japan and is the present chair of the Philippine Specialty Board on Gastroenterology. Members may visit him for consultations at his clinic, Room 915, the Cathedral Heights Bldg. of SLMC, from Mondays to Saturdays, 9 AM to 3 PM.

MEDICard Upgrades to ISO 9001: 2000



MEDICard upgrades from ISO 9002: 1994 to ISO 9001: 2000. The HMO's new standards model is more oriented towards meeting customer requirements & achieving customer satisfaction. ISO also expects the organization to communicate with customers, measure & monitor customer satisfaction. Receiving the Certificate of Approval from BVQI President Yasuo Takehisa is MEDICard's EVP & GM, Luis Montoya. With them were (L-R) Veronica Edades (Asst. Mngr.-Med Services/QMS Mngr.), Elizabeth Laqui (VP-Controller) & Minam Villafuerte (Mktg. Services Mngr.)

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 818-2161. For group or corporate membership, dial 812-8360, 817-5136 or 817-4985 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO certified

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The power of positive feelings

The road to sanity and well-being of mind, heart and body is the integration of the three

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

> *The longest journey you will ever make in your life is from your head to heart.*—Sioux wisdom

ERIC, a highly successful entrepreneur, had it all. He was on top of the world. Until one fine morning, he woke up with pain in his chest and a feeling he never knew existed, or had been denying all these years—emptiness. His emotional pain became physical. Taking a good look at himself in the mirror, he finally admitted that he wasn't happy.

Be aware or beware

Everyone is on a journey into the heart whether we fight it or not. It is the natural movement of one's spirit toward wholeness, integrity and compassion. The heart is:

- Our only way in creating a future.
- The healing each one longs for.
- The same healing needed if we are to realize our fullest potential.

Becoming aware of your deepest feelings can be painful, but it means the end of denial and the removal of one's mask. Rejecting awareness means you're masking your pain. The result being, distorted behavior, lying to yourself and others thus heaping deception upon deception in your life. This alternative no longer works. The road to sanity and well-being of mind, heart and body is the integration of the three. The person who seeks integration pursues co-creation and not compromise. Being second-best is not enough.

Running away

There are patterns in our lives that are almost the same—our response to emotionally stressful situations. And these patterns, according to psychologists, are ways of avoiding emotions acting as defense mechanisms.

Anger—The archaelogy of anger includes pain, fear and lack of self-worth. The experience of powerlessness is seeing yourself ignored, abused, misunderstood and unappreciated. Anger is a shield for unresolved pain.

Workaholism—A flight from emotions, it acts like a drug to dull one's feelings. The more one works, the more one needs to work.

Pass-through effect—Throwing yourself into a frenzy of activities like shopping, exercise, cooking, creating businesses, throwing parties, socializing—all these may seem normal, but are you using them to escape your emotional limbo? Sooner or later you will have to face yourself.

Perfectionism—avoiding imperfection. You believe that the world is not perfect and that your situation is not either. Wrong. All choices create perfect consequences, though your choices can cause destructive or constructive consequences. When you attempt to impose your "perfect" choices on others, you are not creating a more perfect world—you are creating a world of insensitive imposition. When you impose yourself on others, your heart closes. You live in fear.

Pleasing—Going out of your way to make someone happy at the cost of your integrity, energy and happiness is a high price to pay. But it is a form of manipulation with the primary goal of controlling others by giving them what they want, by being indispensable to them, by making them dependent on you. The foundation of pleasing is insecurity.

Vacating—day dreaming, absentmindedness and the inability to keep focused on a task. Moving on to another task before you even finish the first one is a form of escape. It is indulging on impulses so you cannot feel.

Boredom—A defense against emotional awareness, it is the failure to find an activity to distract you from your real problems.

Idol worship—The role the worshipper must play in order to escape from his true connection with his self. To strive to be what you are not is a lie.

Impenetrable optimism—using optimism to shield the hurt. When an impenetrable optimist cannot get what he wants, he believes that he does not want it. The opposite is true. He wants it but cannot get it. And not getting it is a painful experience. So, he sees himself as carefree even if he is not.

Entitlement—seeing yourself above others as being fundamentally superior. Blindness to who you are means you deny fear. Until you learn what you deny, you cannot be free of it. Beneath entitlement lurks a terror of rejection.

Alcoholism and drugs—Alcoholism and drug addiction are symptoms of intense emotional pain. They are also remedies for stress, feelings of inadequacy, fears of being judged and humiliated. Only you can extinguish the source of your pain—not alcohol or drugs.

Eating—Obsessive eating is compensation for what you lack emotionally. It is an act of feeling your body and what your heart and soul have been longing for—love. And yet, even while food has been served, you are still starving. Learn to love yourself first. If you do, you will face your problems and solve them without abusing your body.

Sex—When you have sexual interaction minus emotional involvement, you deaden your own heart to feelings. Surrendering to addictive sexual attraction may seem exciting and consuming, but it is a defense against awareness of a most painful experience—being powerless. It is the fear of being unloved and unlovable. A sexual addict is an individual in acute pain. And yet it's a call for help that signals a craving for meaning, purpose and value in life. Sex without love is empty.

Positive thanking

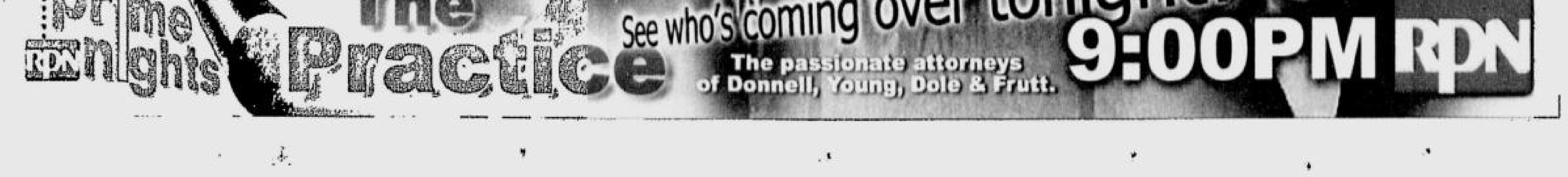
Here is a prescription to heal ourselves. Practice gratitude. To say thank you is cleaning. It also is an act of spiritual power.

- Bless each new day. Declare "Thank you God for another day of life."
- Say thank you to everyone who touches your life today and every day.
- Start a gratitude journal. List down each day, all the good (and even the bad) that happened to you. By energizing them all, you will begin to heal more and more. Joy and pain are never meaningless for they serve a purpose in your life.
- Hug yourself. You have to the power to heal yourself. Say "I am healed."

To quote Marianne Williamson in "The Power of Positive Thanking": Gratitude lies at the heart of the universe and I want it at the heart of me.

Love and light!

Excerpted from Marianne Williamson and Dr. Gary Zukav


TUESDAY
rated prime nights
RPN
The Practice
See who's coming over tonight!
The passionate attorneys of Donnell, Young, Dole & Frutt.
9:00PM
RPN